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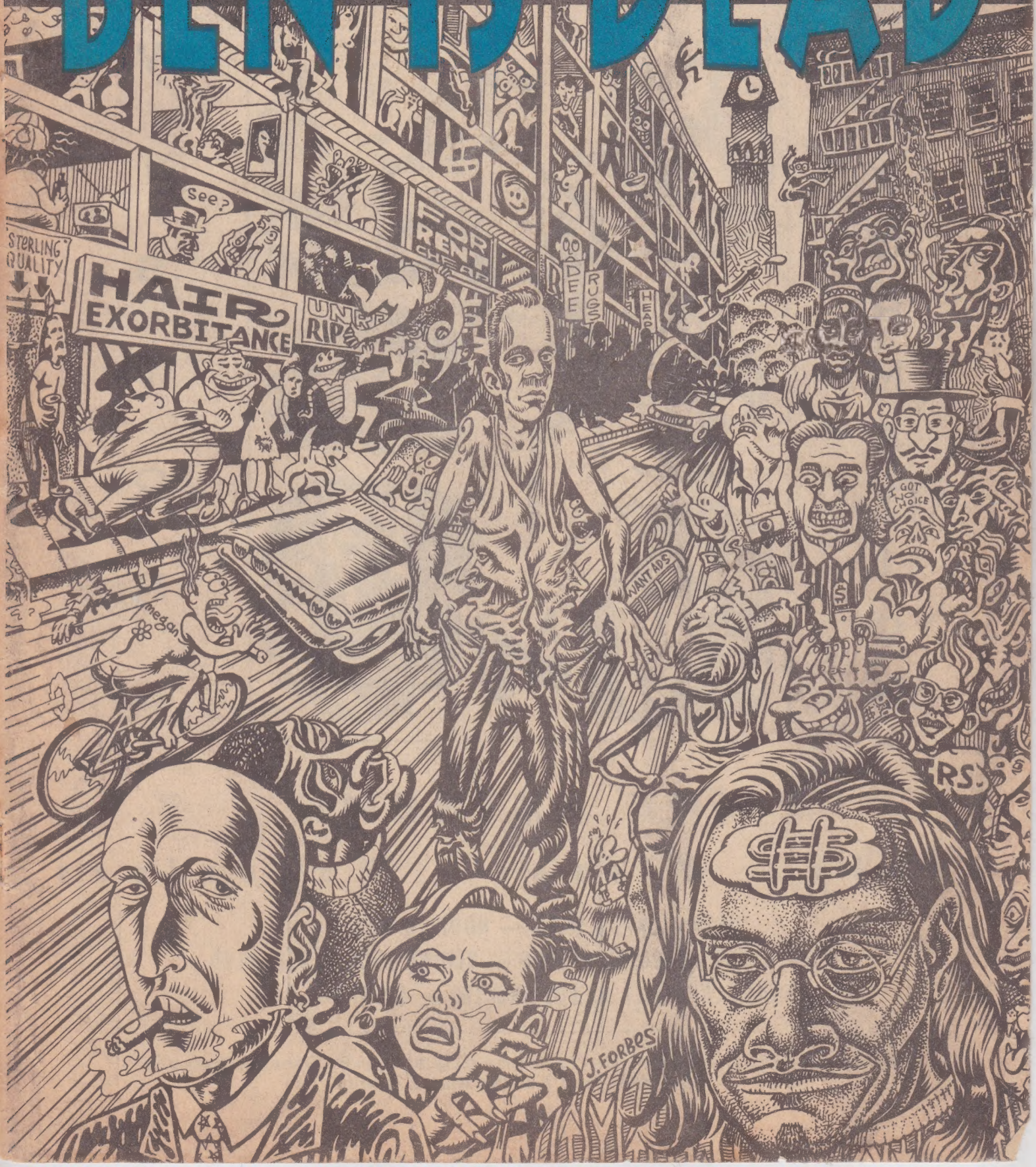
BEN IS DEAD



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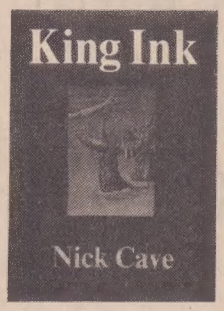

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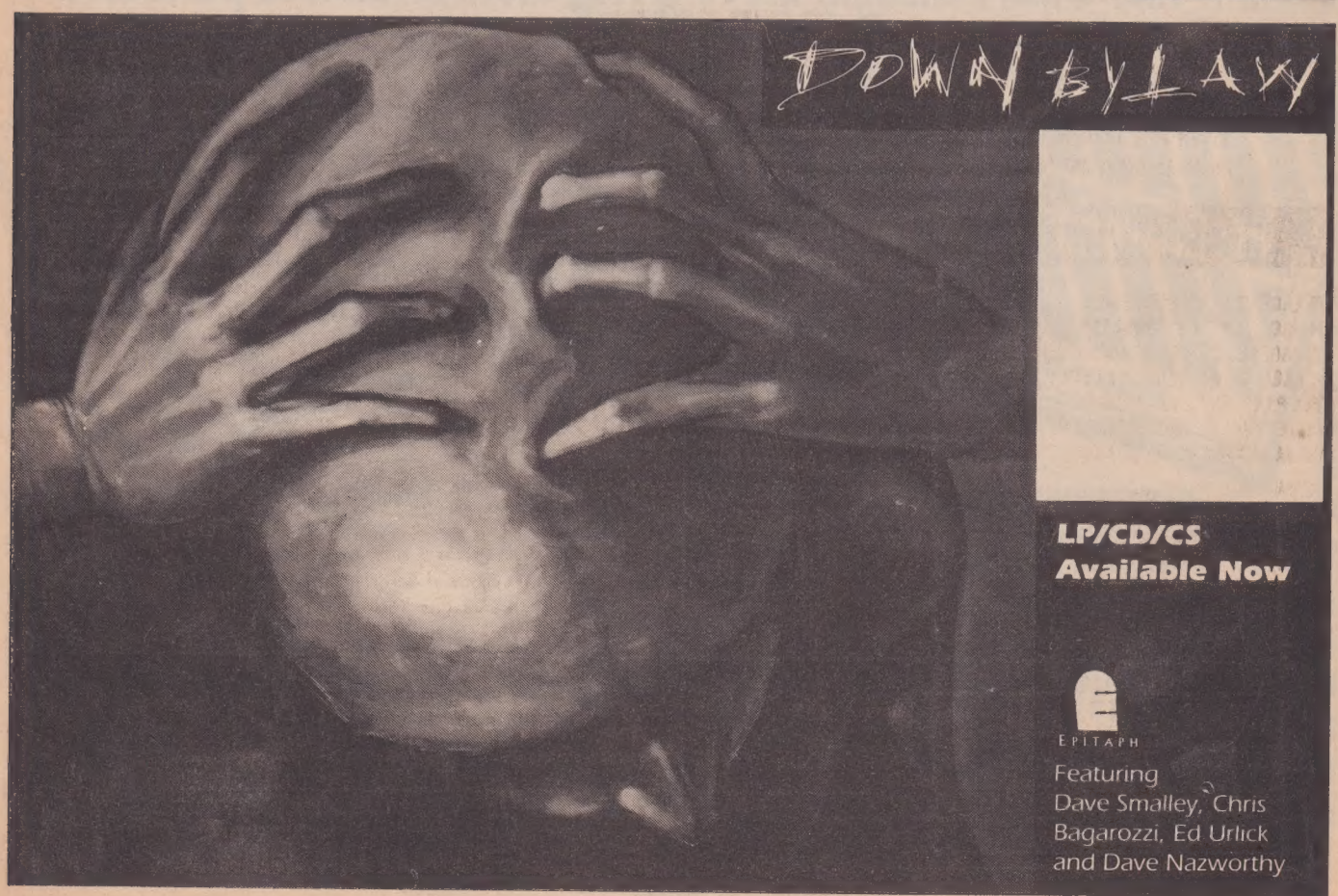

CREDITS

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BURRITO KICKER: EVAN MACK
CLOSET DECONSTRUCTIONIST: IVY SCHILD
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SHANE WILLIAMS' "KIND OF PEOPLE" (SIC): ETHAN
A SMILE THAT LIGHTS UP ANY ROOM: ANNABELLE
ONYX BOHEMIAN: MARCEL DÉJURE
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GETTING HIS WIGGLE BACK: JOHN "PORK" NAPIER
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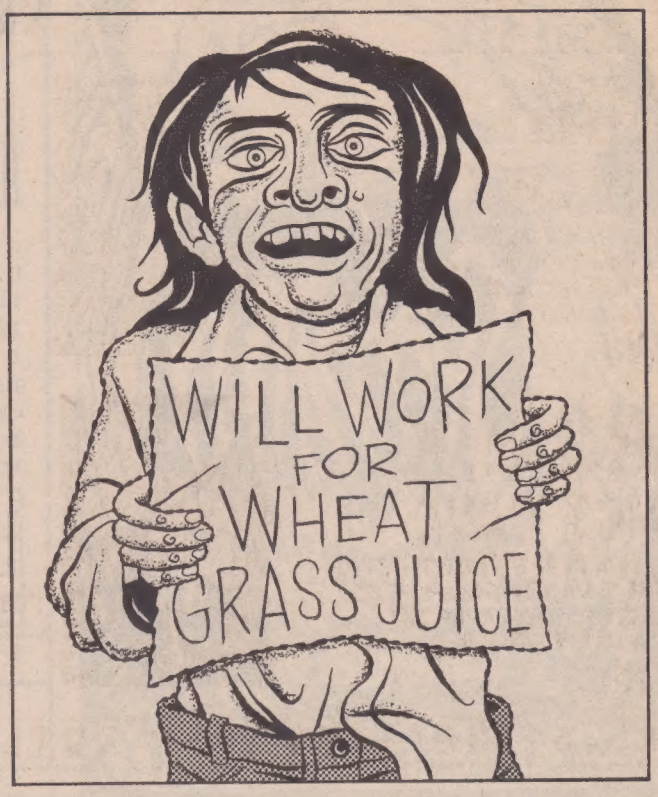

EDITBORIAL

This introduction is actualy a conclusion. Amen. This month's issue is focused on getting by with meager means: aptly titled the "Broke" issue. I live with the burden of "broke" on my shoulders. I spend my life trying to go above & beyond it but even if I do realistically it is just around the corner. And sure, I guess that can be somewhat inspiring but sometimes I don't need inspiration to want to eat.

This magazine in fact would not be around if I didn't know how to bargain, trade, scheme even. Fuck, that's why it was started in the first place. Besides wishing there was something good to read in clubs when the boring bands were on, I basically didn't have enough money to go to shows and buy records. I thought having a magazine would be the ideal ticket. (Let's just say desperation is often the deciding factor in the intelligence of a broke person). Obviously, I was sadly mistaken as to the cost and energy a measly magazine would require. Often trying to get something for nothing leaves you with less than you had in the first place.

Every one who writes for us does it for free, as do all of our "artists", photographers, "shit workers"..., Sharron is kind enough to let me run her ragged with the job of distributing the magazine from Orange County to San Diego and doing all our halftones at her work. Evan and Ivy drive all the way from Long Beach to answer my desperate calls for paste-up work, even though Ivy has to be up by 7:00am and risks my having an affair with her boyfriend. Kerin (who drives from butt-fuck Covina) even cleans my house when there's time between jobs to work on and ads to beg for... talk about dedication. I'm sure you don't even want to know what I put my poor boyfriend through.

One thing that always stuck in my mind was reading Mike Gunderloy's (Factsheet Five) year end financial statement which he printed in his magazine. I was hoping someday to get to the level he's on 'til I found out that he's making around the same as what I make off my magazine...nothing. Figuring out my taxes for last year was depressing. My grand income total was $5000. Over $3500 was income from ads to pay for the printing of this and I don't even want to think about the other magazine costs. (Talk about inspiration).

Some BID news. Well, I heard Middle Earth Records (in O.C.) was threatened (by some kid's mother) with a law suit for carrying the "Obsessions and Bad Habits" issue of BID (namely for the unsolicited date rape article). Perhaps they now keep us behind the counter as Zed Records did with our last few issues. We are going to continue on a six week schedule, monthly is just enough out of reach to be impossible at the present time. As you see we have again added more pages and color as well. Look for even more of both next issue (we hope). And some late breaking news: As we went to press we heard Rough Trade went bankrupt. Darby.

Hark ye, Clinker, you are a most notorious offender. You stand convicted of sickeness, hunger, wretchedness, and want. —Tobias Smollett (1721-1771)

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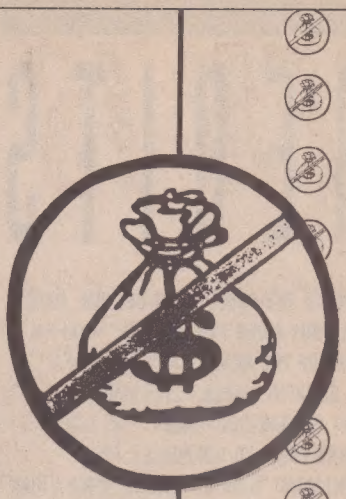

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BEN IS DEAD LETTERS

FEELGOOD LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dear Darby,

I just finished reading a hefty portion of your Censorship issue (#12), and I have to let you know how thorough and well-done I found it. For once, a publication with the balls to bring us the issue with a decidedly "no apologies"/"in your face" approach. I especially enjoyed the interview with Brian and Stuart of the AMOK bookstore, and the LA WEEKLY controversy discussion. I'm glad you reprinted the Michael Ventura letter—it's so funny! I have one of the "first 5000 copies" of the Fourth Dispatch, and I love showing that letter to my friends because it is so insanely stupid.

By the way, a past issue (about a year ago) reviewed a 12" single by DEATH RIDE '69 called "Red Sea". I've been trying to find this record forever, and no one has it. I've been to Rhino, Vinyl Fetish, Aron's, etc. I even called KXLU for the address of the record company & wrote to them, with no luck. Please, if there is anyone on your staff who knows where I can find a copy, please let me know. I'd be eternally grateful!

In the meantime, keep up the good work! Ben Is Dead is without a doubt the best magazine of its kind. I appreciate your politics and your music coverage – what more could anyone ask for?

Yours sincerely,

Perry M. Glorioso, 160 S. Commonwealth #3, Los Angeles, CA 90004

STRAIGHT OUT OF A STATER BROTHERS COMMERCIAL

Ben Is Dead,

My name is John and I'm an ambulance driver. I treat gunshot wounds and deliver babies. I see poor die everyday. I see our city. You guys think you are reality but think again. Your magazine is a waste of paper and your time. You are pure hatred. I am an atheist. To me, no god could let our world be this way. Believe me... you are a contributer to the downfall of this world. Not a solution to anything. We need solutions in our world badly. Why? So there's fewer wars, killings, and raping. Your mag is a total monument to ignorance and failure. You hate censorship. But why do you hate it so much? Because you have nothing to say. You could never have anything to say... its (sic) impossible you have no brain... but at least your (sic) good at showing two men humping... reality. By the way your 'freedom' is how AIDS is spread. Thats why I have to wear gloves.

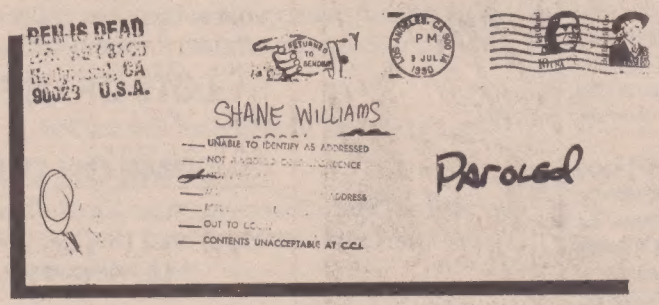
John Sealell, Hawthorne

P.S. Call me a dick and an inhibited coward... but you come try to do my job. Also – showing tumor mutilated faces isn't amusing. I'll send you some good pics!... reality! Hey censorship hater! Why don't you print this letter word for word in your mag. ...or are you gonna edit it to lean your way... yeah that's what the 1st ammendment would want!

MORE VENTURA BASHING

To: the happy people at Ben Is Dead,

Just finished with the April edition and all the mayhem involved. Excellent issue, loud Ted Nugent goes with it well. Especially enjoyed the interview with Brian King and Stuart Swezey of Amok. They're definitely right about Michael Ventura. The guy has been boring me to death with his self-serving articles for years. He should be dragged behind my 1972 Cadillac convertible through the paved gullies of L.A. so he can really get "street smart".



I had to laugh at his threatening letter. When you write something the public will read (for what reason I'm at a loss to define), then you stand the chance that criticism, or more hopefully in his case, a mallet to the head so the beetle-filled brain will cease wasting paper and thus trees. Just as he has the right to defend himself, we have the right to call him illiterate. If his enormous ego can't handle it, I suggest he find something more towards his capacity like street sweeping.

Anyway, enough of this diatribe. Good mag and congrats on going monthly.

Ciao,

Sebastion DeBovian

P.S. Say hello to Ivy, we were classmates in high school.

AW, QUIT YOUR WHINING!

Dear Ben is Dead,

The time has come for me to bitch directly to you about a certain fact or, plainly put, I'm bitching because as an imprisoned but still VIP of Hollywood (Very Incensed Punk) I would like to know why you guys aren't taking the time and expence (sic) to send me your mag – especially since, back in '89, at the Teaszer, my wife (now ex) Stephanie spoke to you and described who I was and where I am and you agreed to send me the mag if I wrote – which I did – from Tehaehadi, where I was then – and NADA – So here it is a good 18 months later – BID is still around – I'm still in prison – you just put out an issue on "Bad Habits" which as the premier pro-tt man on the issue I should've had input on – and still NADA –

Just in case you need refreshing as to who I am – ask Mike Snider. Ask Al Flipside. I'm not gonna be in prison forever – dontcha think it would behoove you to start sending me your zine – back issues and all – Flipside does – but then they have for 13 prison years and I guess you'd have to call me staff now – Real Life does – and that's just cuz they got the sense to know what's up – I just bitched to *(Unreadable)* about this cuz it seems like they were plugging you big time and they had enough sense to send an issue – so get with it! My current address is: Shane Williams, 73673-012 S.E. #319, 8901 S. Wilmot Rd., Tucson, AZ 85706.

Dear Shane,

I kept waiting for the "Just Joking" part of your letter and when I reached the end, it was with shock that I realized you were serious. All I can say in response is GET REAL!

First of all, your social status in Hollywood means zip to me. People are people, and I couldn't care less if Al Flipside was your father (No insult intended AL!). So all those magazines send you copies. Great! Have you ever stopped to think that they do it, not because of who you flaunt yourself to be, but because they want to? Or because they sympathize for a fellow scenester who can't enjoy the things he used to? Those are the reasons that would make me send you a copy of the zine I write for, rather than who you know and what they do.

Secondly, your indignation that we didn't "take the time and expense" to send BID your way is bogus. Yes, we send copies to prisoners free of charge. Like I said, it must be tough being locked away, but we are doing YOU a favor. And for some reason, you seem to think you're doing US a favor. What did you do? Send in 3 full page ads? Funny, I can't seem to find the check.

Thirdly, I dig that "I'm not gonna be in prison forever." Optimism is good for the soul, so I'm not even going to think that you meant that as a threat. I mean, that would be so pathetic if someone planned a vendetta (real or imaginary) against us just because they didn't get their issue. Fuck, our zine isn't that great Shane. Wait a second...yes it is. Anyway, why are you freaking out so much over it? You seem to have a hell of a lot of reading literature to chose from, so why is BID's absence a thorn in your side? I wish all our advertisers put the same amount of importance on us as you do. I'd actually be getting paid to type this.

Finally, (and I saved the best for last) we did send you the zine. Several times. Letters even. And they kept getting sent back to us with "Paroled" written on it. We'll even send you the proof. Shane, we're really flattered you like our zine this much, but seriously...chill out. We're still here, you're still here, and now that we have your new address, you'll get your BID. Not because you scared us into it but because we want to send it. And doesn't that make you feel special?

THE POSTMISTRESS KERIN

P.S. I'll trade you my autographed picture of Joe Crummy for one of Al Flipside!!

LETTERS CONTINUED

TWISTED (BACK)WORDS
FORMER MRR WRITER SPEAKS OUT!

Dear Ben Is Dead,

I must admit I found it pretty galling to see you giving pea-brained phonies like the people at MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL a forum to blather on with their "insights" on the subject of censorship. This is the same rag that censored my column the moment I had the audacity to write on subjects critical of their half-baked radicalism.

After writing a column for close to two years, I made the mistake of submitting a column that was harshly critical of Yohannon's radical politics specifically and him personally. One week later I get a phone call from Yohannon informing me that they're dropping my column. It has nothing to do with the content of my last column or the politically incorrect views exposed (sic), oh no, of course not, the timing is merely coincidental. But because I had suddenly become "a bad writer, period, with no writing talent, who nobody wants to read."

It never seems to bother that turd that I do in fact have a rather large following for both my writing and cartooning, not to mention a big box of fanmail from MRR readers. But Yohannon certainly isn't one to ever let "facts" get in the way of his agenda. Like you say: "censorship–the process of excluding from consciousness those ideas and feelings that would be intolerable in other than symbolic form" or "limited dispersion of facts."

Oh excuse me, I keep forgetting it's (sic) only counts as censorship among the fools who comprise the alternative fanzine scene when its (sic) those no-good fascists on the Right doing it to the Left. Leftists themselves never do it because they're such champions of free-thinking. Ha ha.

Ace Backwords

Aside from that beef I think you guys are doing a real great job. The obsession issue was a classic and went over real big here.

Ace,

Maybe you should have read those interviews a little more closely. Yes, we interviewed Larry Livermore and Martin Sprouse, who both write for MRR, but the focus of the pieces was on Martin's work with Pressure Drop Press (which is connected to MRR, though we didn't know that until the interview), and Larry's own work with the various Lookouts. As Darby noted, I have no love for MRR, but both Larry and Martin are lucid, intelligent beings who are out there doing something and who, I think, contributed a great deal with their viewpoints. Besides, most of the people we tried to interview didn't respond!

I find it a little hard to believe that everything was just peachy-keen for you at MRR until that one column. In two years you never suspected that they might be a little "narrow minded" or "self-serving?" By telling your story from the viewpoint of such a poor, lost soul, you lose credibility.

Ace, why don't you look on the bright side? From the amount of coverage you've given the incident for the past year or so in your own magazine, and your current letter-writing campaign, you've gotten that most coveted prize in Bay Area circles--the ISSUE. Jello's got his, the Bay Gaurdian has theirs, now you've got yours. Subject matter to feed off of for years to come! -Mikki

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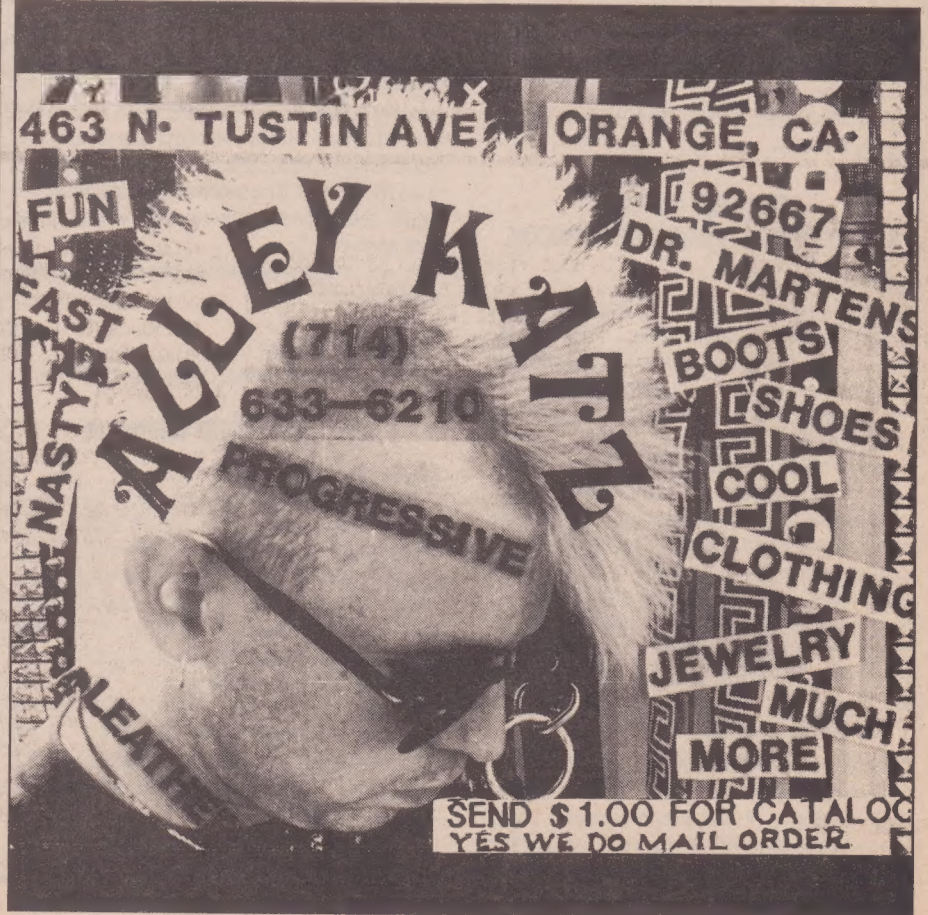


"For de little stealin' dey gits you in jail soon or late. For de big stealin' dey makes you emperor and puts you in de Hall of Fame when you croaks."—Eugene O'Neill

THE BEN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF "BROKE"

What you'll find here is an A-Z guide of tips, scams, techniques, and the like for getting by with a less-than-impressive cash flow. Some staff members didn't want to give up their secrets, but those who did yielded information that should greatly improve your life and your bank account (if you have one). We'd like to take this opportunity to state that any gains derived from this encyclopedia are solely at the discretion of the reader, and that we assume no liability for any bad karma (or legal difficulties) incurred. This encyclopedia is for informational purposes only. Rich people who are reading this – shame on you!! Many of these are based in LA or California, but there's probably something equivalent in your area. Remember: it's not the one that got away, it's what you got away with.

A

ACLU

The ACLU helps to provide free or low-cost legal services in cases where Constitutionally guaranteed rights are being violated. They're more proud of helping Ollie North than Jello Biafra, but who's complaining? 213-487-1720 (Mikki) *See also: Pro Bono.*

AIR FLIGHTS

You just took a flight and it wasn't what you dreamed it would be? Ask to speak to whomever's in charge, act like you've just gone through the worst experience in your life and complain like you never have before (hang out in the Fairfax district for tips). It's likely to help if you're a frequent flyer, they'll probably give you something for free (maybe even a flight). (Darby)

WHEN IN EUROPE... : Sometimes they have special deals in Europe for travel in the U.S. If by chance you are over there (or know someone there?) check it out. A friend of mine said his brother got a rather cheap ticket there for *unlimited* travel in the U.S. for a certain period of time. (Darby)

FLY STAND BY: Call ahead and book a number of reservations under fictitious names on the flight you want to take. (Darby)

AIRLINES

LOST LUGGAGE: When you leave the airport they're supposed to check the tags on your luggage. If they don't, call them up when you get home and tell them your luggage wasn't there and ask if they've found it. Luggage is automatically insured for a certain amount so they'll have to send you money in exchange for it. Other ideas are to take an old suitcase next time you fly and fill it full of crap. When you arrive at your destination go to the baggage area, find this suitcase and then clip the tags off it. Then complain to the baggage person, show them your tag receipts and cash in. A good idea is to insure that suitcase for even more money before you go. (Darby with ideas by Carla)

ALCOHOL

DISCOUNT DRUNKENNESS: When budgetary constraints begin to impose upon your hedonist lifestyle with threats of moderation or even (gasp!) abstinence, one must know where to turn for swift, efficient intoxication within your monetary limitations. When face to face with sobriety, don't give in! There is an alternative. CISCO is a flavored wine drink sold in the wine cooler section of selected sleazy liquor stores. The bottle distinctly reminds you "This is not a wine cooler", yet the ingredients list grape wine as its only alcohol content. Killer grapes, man. 20% alcohol by volume. It doesn't really taste like wine, but at $1.39 (plus tax) a bottle, it pays not to question it. The bottom line is this: this shit will fuck you up. I've heard stories of time travel due to this stuff, even transcending the ego is not out of the question. Advantages are that it looks like a wine cooler, so there's no need to hide it at parties. You can give it to girls (girls love wine coolers). It's numbing properties mimic anaesthesia, so try it for easing the pain of a broken heart. (Gretel Pate) *See also: Drugs.*

UP, UP AND AWAY: Always steal the mini sized alcohol bottles as the stewardesses push their drink carts down the aisle. (Darby)

A LITTLE TOO MUCH?: Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are always free. Call information for your local chapters. Here's a few for L.A.: 213/387-8316. Cocaine Anonymous: 213/839-1143.

Poverty is no disgrace to a man, but it is confoundedly inconvenient. –Sydney Smith [1771-1845]

BATHROOM BAR: Bring your bar into the bar. My bar is always in the bathroom (or in the trunks of your friends' cars!). Stoli and orange juice for example: sneak it in pre-mixed and keep it behind the bathroom's trash or under the sink. Get a glass/cup from the bartender, go to the bathroom as needed and fill up. Keep in mind the color of your drink and the drinks they actually sell in the bar. Keep in mind that your goal is not to get the bar or club in trouble. (Darby)

NO SHIT SHERLOCK: When at clubs, don't drink your beer or alcohol near the "pit." (Darby)

ART GALLERIES

ART GALLERY OPENINGS: You can nosh and shmooze with the *hoi polloi* at an opening nearly every night of the week. Hit the food tables as soon as you arrive and come back to see the art another day, when it's less crowded. The *Weekly* has fairly comprehensive listings, but the very best ones can be found in the "Gallery Guide" and "Art Scene" (which most galleries have laying around for free). These publications are good because they even have maps to where the galleries are: on a good night you can hit two or three. (Hurt)

ARTISTS

CHEAP PROTECTION FOR POOR ARTISTS: California Lawyers for the Arts (213/623-8311) provides Wednesday clinics on artist gallery contracts, alternatives to small claims court, royalty rights, etc. They also publish books, provide advocacy and housing services, give legal referrals, and have a library. The cost for Wednesday clinics is $15 dollars for non-members and $5 for CLA members. Membership is only $20 for artists, $15 for students. (Mikki) *See also: ACLU, Pro Bono.*

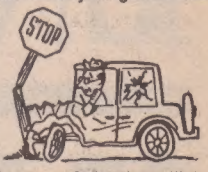
(LOW COST) ART COLONIES: Surprisingly there's only one I've found out about in LA, which is called the Santa Fe Art Colony. If you're interested you should call for info (213/587-5902). Basically what you do is you send in a couple of slides of your most recent work, a copy of the bottom line of your income tax from last year and you send it to Richard Gernish, Studio One, 2415 S. Santa Fe Ave., LA 90058. If all goes well they will put you on the waiting list. Sometimes there is day space available so call for that info as well. (Darby & Don)

TAXES: You might think that the new tax codes, which eliminate most or all of the incentives for donating art, effectively keep you from those classy tax shelters which rich people and their accountants devise. But here's what you need to do: incorporate yourself. You now own, not ten million dollars worth of (your own) art, but 10 million bucks worth of stock, which you can then donate, *and which is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.* HERE'S ANOTHER ONE, which has some pretty big "ifs" in it, but which does continue to help you even after you die: You spend $25 to make $500 worth of art. You then borrow $1000, using the artwork as collateral–whenever you have interest due on the loan, borrow some more. As your artwork is appreciating in value, you are also receiving tax free money to use to create more artwork. In your will, contribute the art and the loan to a non-profit institution or charity. They will sell the artwork, pay the debt, and pocket the difference. Your estate taxes will be reduced accordingly. (Mikki)

AUDIO RECORDINGS

CASSETTES: Hang out at clubs and tell every musician you meet that you're the famous BEN IS DEAD columnist *I.P. Freely* and that you're looking for tapes to review for the next issue. Put scotch tape over the erase protect slots and go wild. This scam isn't exactly free – if you ask someone whose music has already been reviewed in my column you may not only not get any free cassettes, you might end up in the Emergency Room. Another idea is to get on the Church of Scientology mailing list. Sometimes they send out their moronic and hokey brainwash kits in AUDIO CASSETTE format! If you do get tapes from them, they can also be good for a few yuks. Check out the late L. Ron Hubbard's paranoid, messianic ramblings before you tape over them. I've heard a few in my time, and let me tell you – it's strictly padded cell material. Only in Southern California could a psychotic nut like that take in so many suckers(*wasn't Jim Jones from San Francisco? mh).* (I.P. Freely)

COMPACT DISCS: Easy. The CBS Compact Disc Club. Those shell-game con artists that place stiff cardboard adverts strategically right in the middle of every magazine on Planet Earth. The ones you have to rip out before you can read any of the articles, guaranteeing that you're going to have to look at their shit at least once before it goes into the ash can. Just think of how many trees that is in a year, my my. Well, here's a way to help put these guys out of business and fight deforestation too. Get a P.O. box; not a real one from the post office-find a privately run service, like they have all over Hollywood – "ACME INTERNATIONAL... ANSWERING SERVICE / PASSPORT PHOTOS / MAILBOXES Etc.). Or give a street address from someplace where you can get mail but can't be tracked down. Ordering 6-8 weeks before you move to another apartment is one method. Don't forget to use an assumed name. Order the "6 free CD's!" from their dull and very limited selection. A lot of people like what they have listed (Billy Idol, Gloria Estefan, Jane's Addiction etc.) but probably not *YOU* since you're the kind of low life who needs to have the CHEAP issue of BEN IS DEAD around the house to survive. If nothing listed appeals to you, then just get some of the hot titles on the charts and when the discs arrive, take them down to Aron's or Rockaway and trade them in for something good. Hey, the circulation of BID isn't that huge, CBS can easily afford to fully outfit every one of our CD collections. So have some guts – you can all be the messengers of karma to a corporation that sorely needs them. Can you think of a better way to treat the folks who just handed that sideshow freak Michael Jackson a cool billion? They should just pack him away in formaldehyde right now and give us the money instead. (I.P. Freely)



RECORDS: Buy a record, tape it and then scratch it and exchange it for a different record. (Ryan Hopeless)

AUTO CLUB

THREE STAR (AND THREE As) SERVICE: The fees for joining AAA aren't too hefty, if you travel a lot and take advantage of what they will do for you: free maps (highway and city), tour books, and hotel discounts and reservations. They'll even help you plan your route along scenic or time-saving routes. (Ann)

AWARDS BANQUETS DINNERS

AND THE AWARD FOR BEST PERFORMANCE AS A CATER GOES TO: Here's a tip I used throughout the 80's; it may still be a good one now. Whenever there was an awards banquet of some sort, taking place mainly in Beverly Hills or Century City (American Music Awards, People's Choice etc.), I would scout out the location and times for the dinners. Once I had that information I would find the service entrance and find out what the caterers were wearing (most likely black trousers, white shirt and a white apron). I would then go home and slip into the appropriate duds. On my way back I would stop at a certain Italian restaurant in the Westwood area. I had special favors with a cute little redhead waitress who worked there (that's another story), and she would slip me a clean crisp white apron. Then off I go to the function. I just walked right up to the service entrance after noting the name of catering service and walk right in, usually uncontested. Sometimes security would ask who I was working for: I would respond, annoyed, with the name and also imply that "I'm already late so please don't take up too much of my time or my supervisor will have my ass. Once inside I would just blend in or hang out somewhere out of sight. The food is usually kept in a makeshift serving area with people walking back and forth hauling bins of food. Once the food has been served and consumed, the serving line is dismantled and the leftovers are carried out to the catering truck. I would grab a box of the food I wanted and carry it out to my car and load it in my trunk. There would most likely be wine and champagne sitting there by the cases, so I would grab a case or two of spirits to go with my dinner (grabbing a couple of cases might seem greedy but I had to keep up the appearance that I was working, so no one would suspect me of stealing). I might hang around a bit for appearance's sake, but more likely than not I would take off my apron, place it over my shoulder and walk out to my car and drive away, one happy fellow. (Sir Ty)

BANK ROBBERY

HOW NOT TO ROB A BANK: The lead singer of a certain local band with a penchant for dressing up went to the bank one day to make a deposit (fairly unusual in itself). But the deposit slip which he filled out had a message written on the back which he didn't notice. So when this strangely dressed fellow handed the teller a slip which read "This is a stick-up" she naturally hit the silent alarm and kept him talking. The poor guy spent the next several hours explaining the mix-up and has since taken to using the Versatel machines. (Mikki and Franz Liszt)

BARTERING

SETTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS BACK 20 YEARS: Most stores run by Arabic people (preferably men) in Hollywood are likely to encourage bartering if you're a girl. Wear a low cut shirt and giggle a lot, and you'll be able to knock at least 10% off of whatever you're buying. (Sally Sleezebage!)

BEER

THIS BUG'S FOR YOU: My friend Pat was drinking a Budweiser (bottle) one time and he felt this really gross squishy thing go into his mouth. When he spit it out it was a

big soggy cockroach that had been in the beer!! He wrote a nasty letter to them explaining how traumatized he had been by the experience and they wrote back saying that they wanted to send him a free case of beer (which they couldn't send to his PO Box). He wrote again saying that he would never drink their stuff again under any circumstances and they still kept bothering him and offering more beer. It shouldn't be too hard to figure out how you can put this to your own personal use. (Mikki)

BEGGING

BUMMING IN OTHER LANGUAGES: When I scammed a free trip to Europe (France) "as a student" courtesy of my dad I had no clue on how to speak French – nor did I care to. Though when it came down to the bare essentials I learned what I had to. "Ave vous un franc ou doux, si vous plait?" which translates to, "Have you a franc or two, please?" worked wonders, you'd be amazed. Maybe it works better if you're a young girl in a foreign country trying to speak a foreign language but I survived no problem on just a couple of hours of it a day... and it's social too (just don't take up any offers to go home with anyone). (Darby)

BUMMING MONEY: The most lucrative place to bum money is the 7-11 on Silverlake Blvd, right by the reservoir. One hour reaped seven dollars. Two girls work best; one talks, the other nods and bats the eyelashes. (Sally Sleezebagel)

SPARE CHANGING: Even if you're bad at it if you ask enough people someone's bound to give you some money. Recommended locations in LA: 1. Hollywood Blvd. There's a lot of competition but also a lot of gullible tourists. 2. Outside any supermarket – ask people as they leave and they'll feel guilty with their basket full of food. (Annabelle)

BEWARE OF THE BUM: My worst experience turning down a homeless person occurred a short time ago outside Al's Bar. Mikki and I were leaving for a party and decided to leave my car behind and drive hers. One of the many homeless guys hanging around there had given himself the job of caretaker of autos. Of course, I was grateful and handed him a buck, saying "Keep watching, we'll be right back." When we came back, I got in my car and started warming the engine. All of a sudden, the valet parker comes running towards me yelling. Seeing that I was broke and didn't want to deal with his shit, I started driving away, ignoring him. The guy started running after my car! I tried to drive faster, but my engine was idling, so he managed to chase me for about a half block before I zoomed away. Now, I hate saying NO to homeless people, especially if I have an extra buck. But, when I don't, I don't want to be made to feel guilty about it. So what's the solution? (Kerin)

BEWARE OF THE INTROSPECTIVE MONOLOGUE: The simplest way to say no to panhandlers is to have no money. Beyond that, the question of wether to give money, how much, and to whom can become a complex proposition. Do you give money to everyone who asks for it or to no one? Do you give to winos or skid row bums? Young men or old ladies? And in figuring who to give to you must have considered why. Are you giving to help another, or are you giving to help yourself? Does giving make you feel human, involved, vital? Some give to relieve a sense of guilt due to the inequity around them. By giving a handout are you correcting that inequity or merely perpetuating it?

Panhandlers can be intimidating. They put you on the defensive. You can't give to everyone, nor would you want to. You need to be able to say no. Sometimes the touch is stated more insistently. Sometimes it sounds more like a demand than a request. If I can't say no, there's no longer any difference between me giving it and you taking it from me. Intimidation can come in the form of subtle extortion. A panhandler greets you as you park your car. He asks if you can spare him some change and tells you he'll keep an eye on your car. The implication being, if you don't pay he'll break into your car. The sentiment expressed in paint on the street by Al's Bar "Wash your windows? Steal your radio." A bit reactionary, but it's honest. It expresses the fear of the haves toward the have nots. It represents what some would call the karma of property. Some say it is morally defensible for those who have nothing to take away from those who have something. "When you got nothing you got nothing to lose." In this view the haves are guilty of having – "Property is theft!" Property is seen as the fruit of exploitation at some level. And anyone who owns *anything* is guilty of a kind of slave trade activity. No matter how you deal with the question of begging, there is potential for your actions and ideology to be rife with contradiction.

Ultimately, you act with little consistency. You give money or not depending on your mood. Depending on your wallet. You decide who to give to and who not to give to – for whatever reasons. And you see the hypocrisy when you do either. You burden yourself with as much responsibility as you want. You shoulder as much guilt as you feel necessary. You kick yourself for having the ego to think you hold the power of comfort / discomfort, happiness / unhappiness over others. You feel shame when you try to deny any connection to others around you. Panhandlers start to feel like waiters and waitresses whom you've cheated out of a tip. You feel like an ass when you give to those who appear in need and later overhear the panhandler boast how he begs more than you're able to earn at your job. So you start to reward esoterica and perversity. Panhandling becomes performance art, and you subsidize those who have a good shtick, a unique approach, a clever delivery. (Alan ä.)

BEN IS DEAD

Objectively, BEN IS DEAD is the best free service in the advancement of human consciousness to come from Southern California since the inauguration of the Scientology Personality Test. Perhaps the last best hope for a sane civilization in the Pacific Rim, BEN IS DEAD is a highly evolved form of non-goal oriented communication therapy and personal growth technology. Psychiatry Kills—Darby is Source!! (Stewart Swezey)

BEN IS DEAD HOTLINE

DIAL COOL: A free, 24 hour message which lists shows, events, and happenings in the LA area. Plan your life, leave obscene messages for Mikki and the BID staff, or announce your own upcoming shows. (Ben Is Dead Family)

BILL CHANGERS

"IF I WERE A RICH MAN..." #1: A nifty little trick my ex-boyfriend taught me was how to get money from dollar bill changers. You need one that sucks your money in (not the tray kind). Stick in your dollar, but hold on firmly to the corners. When it's almost gone, yank it back out fast. Four quarters should plop out. Try and find a location where you can practice the maneuver a few times – sometimes it takes a few tries before you hit paydirt. (Kerin) *(Good luck! -ed.)*

"IF I WERE A RICH MAN..." #2: Photocopy both sides of either a one or five dollar bill. Make sure the copies are as dark as the original. Carefully cut the sides out using (preferably) an X-acto or razor, leaving no uneven edges. Use a glue stick to paste the halves together. The finished project should look like a black and white twin of a real bill. Take this to a bill changer machine with a push in tray, and stick it in. If you did your artwork carefully, it should accept your facsimile and reward you with real quarters! Word of warning: this is considered counterfeiting. Be discreet! (Kerin)

BLOOD

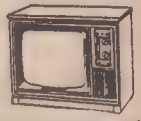
TALK ABOUT BLOOD MONEY: Don't give your plasma away to the Red Cross! Hey, having a big plastic bag of your vital body fluid drained from you hurts. You should get some compensation besides the punch and stale cookies they offer you after the ordeal. Look in the *Weekly* or your local phone book for private blood banks. Most places pay $15 per pint of blood/plasma. There is a restriction on how often you give, so using fake names is beneficial. (Kerin)

BOOKS

LITERARY WARDROBE: One way of getting old, good books is to go to a store like Bullocks or The Broadway. They always have books on their display tables, and sometimes you can find decent titles. Just pick a book up when no one's looking, and walk out. They won't even notice you're taking it. (Kerin)

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS: If you need books for a course, try writing the publisher claiming you are a lecturer at some school and are considering using their book in your course. Lecturers usually get the books for free.

LITERARY WARDROBE AND CASH: For those of you enrolled in college, a fast way to make money is to swipe other people's text books. Keep them until buy back time, and make some extra dough. Some schools require you to show proof of enrollment for whatever class the books are used for, but quite a few schools couldn't care less. (Nola Scrupulas) *(Nola, that's horrid – PEOPLE: never steal books from anyone – especially me –Mikki.)*



CABLE TV

CRAFTY CABLE (dis)CONNECTION: I was taught this valuable lesson by a local Groovy Guru. Being too broke and/or cheap to pay my cable bill, I sat counting the hours until MTV disappeared from my screen. Suddenly, an

Poverty does not mean the possession of little, but the lack of much. —Antipater of Macedonia [c.397-c. 319bc]

SERMON TO THE MASSE'S

or

THIS ISSUE'S APOLOGIA

BY TED

Chances are that a large number of people who are reading this issue of BEN IS DEAD already are living cheaply. Most of us don't have much of a choice. Hopefully, within these hallowed pages, some ideas that will aid this lifestyle can be found. But one thing I noticed as the BID staff sat around discussing the topic of "cheap" is that many of our ideas were actually not at all about living cheaply. What we actually were discussing were ways of ripping people, restaurants, companies, etc., off.

Now, I'm not one to pass judgement. I'm guilty of many of the acts contained herein and I always follow them up with justifications that aren't worth a rat's ass. But the fact of the matter is that every time you take something without the proper form of barter, be it phone calls, food, or time on a parking meter, somebody has to pay for it. Just to clue a few of you in on a secret, it's not Pacific Bell, Ronald McDonald, or the city of L.A. that's footing the bill.

A lot of people have no problem ripping off a major corporation such as the above mentioned. After all, they're ripping tons of money off of us, often in a very corrupt manner that places the value of the almighty dollar above all else.

Well, this is plain and simple bullshit for three main reasons (as well as numerous small ones). First of all, we let them rip us off. Americans are voracious consumers. We want it all, and as much as possible, and we want to complain about how expensive it is. *But we still buy it.* If we cut down our use of the phone, the phone company has to drop its rates to encourage us to use the phone again. Similarly, if we refuse to pay $15 to get into the Lingerie to see some bands who swear their "roots" are punk rock, they can't charge $15. But we do pay it, thus we allow it, so quit trying to scam your way around it.

This brings me to point number two. Some people may read the above and argue that by scamming their way through life, they're not condoning or allowing themselves to be ripped off. These patriots will tell you they're fighting the system and that they're the true punks. These cretins are actually giving justification to the retailers for overcharging us. They simply say that they need to regain the profits they lost from these "scam-ologists" and up their prices. So I end up paying not only for my consumerism, but also the consumerism of some bastard too self-indulgent to pay the price of his/her greed. News flash folks: Lee Iacocca is not going to take the costs of what his employees steal out of his paycheck, he's going to take it out of ours.

Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, many people justify their theft of anything (and let me reiterate that I consider theft to be taking any*thing* without the proper form of retribution) by saying that they are being ripped off by the company/store/clubs to rip *you* off because you're ripping them off. A catch-22 of sorts, eh. I guess my point in all this is to think about how your actions affect others. Don't live cheaply in a manner that raises the cost of living for everyone else, because that makes you a thief. I'm sure there's a large contingent that really doesn't care about being a thief. I don't mind if you are either, if you truly need to be. I'll gladly help pay for the loaf of bread someone steals because he/she truly can't afford it, and truly needs it. But if someone other then yourself has to pay for your ill-gotten gains just because you wanted something (not needed) and couldn't or wouldn't pay for it, then you are no better than the greedy oil companies or fast food restaurant that you so despise.

TED, YOU IGNORANT SLUT!

BY MIKKI

Ted, I think I understand where you're going with this, but there are a few holes in your logic that are going to prevent you from getting there.

First, what exactly is "the proper form of barter"? Ideally, even in a capitalistic society like ours, this would mean exchanging something of value for something of value. Obviously this rarely happens. Our monetary system is going down the tubes with the rest of the economy, helped along by the military industrial complex and the Reagan deficit. The products that we buy are not the things we need-they are the things that we are taught to need. Even when a purchase is made for, say, toilet paper or some other basic, you are also paying for advertising, promotion costs, executive salaries, and all of the trappings that a society based on "competition" thinks are necessary for doing business.

In Marxist economic theory, this is called "alienation." In order to prevent anarchy and a revolt by the workers, they are maintained in subjugation because the are "alienated" from both their desires and the means of production. Alienation from the means of production means, briefly and summarily, that the individual has no control over how goods are produced, and no access to altering the processes of production. Alienation from "desire" means pretty much what one would think. For example, take the trash novel industry. These are touted as "fantasies" and "escape", but actually what they do is suppress the anarco-sexual impulse by displacing it and satisfying it with a consumer product.

So, after you've bought the whole deal about money=value (this is alienation from the means of production), you are then further processed by the system into buying that product, and further alienated from what you really want or need.

Now, to take your reasons for why ripping off major corporations isn't going to work in the long run. 1. "We let them rip us off." I find this theorizing a little naive. If we cut down our use of the phone, the phone company is not going to lower their rates. What they will do is whine to the government about their decline in business, lay off some employees, and get big subsidies to continue providing their services, whether we need them or not. Look at Amtrak--they're a textbook case.

2. This seems to be an extension of the logic in No. 1. True, the self-righteousness of many of the "rip-off artists" is kind of phoney (of course, none of you BID staff members are included in that!), but they do have a point. It may be grandiose to call this "economic terrorism", but the fact is that we need to dismantle the machine we are within on several fronts; by monkeywrenching it wherever possible, and by providing alternatives to it that will sustain the values we choose to believe in. See, the people who wind up "paying" for the employees because their new Chrysler LeBaron costs more are part of the problem too. Maybe someone should start a punk rock car manufacturer!!

3. Basically I guess your point is that you see the "scamologists" as parasitic. I guess I don't consider that negative. If they're draining the energy of a predatory animal and interfering in its functioning, when its function is one of oppression, then that's ultimately a good thing.

Now, I don't like the thought that Helen Retail Slut has to raise her prices because of theft. And I REALLY don't like the thought that they now film everyone in the store. That's why I wouldn't go there now. But I do have a problem with the attitude of "If you really need it...I'll give it to you" because ultimately that puts the giver, wether that giver is the Welfare Office, a parent, someone responding to a panhandler, or an unwitting victim of a scam, in the position of (for lack of a better term) God. What if someone really needs a sex change operation?

I do agree that we must consider how our actions affect others. That is the basic premise of community action and organization, which is what is really need to day, don't you think? Anyway, Ted, that's all I have to say--except that I don't REALLY think that you're a slut!

"Anyone who is broke and doesn't have a regular welfare check coming in is nothing but a lazy bum!" -Abbie Hoffman

angel from the depths of Hollywood came knocking at my door saying, "Hark! I bring you the key to prevent scrambling of your cable!" I let her in, my heart fluttering anxiously as I cried, "Show me, show me this key!" She pointed to my clock and said "At exactly 12:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M., the cable company will send out the scramble message. Before the clock strikes those hours, disconnect your cable box ENTIRELY, and leave it so until an hour past twelve. After that time, reconnect the box, and you shall still have your cable. Be warned, though! You must remember to do this every day or else "120 Minutes" will be seen no more!" With this, she was gone. I did as the angel had said, and retained my 49 extra channels until the end of the year. (Kerin)

CAMPING

CRAFTY CAMPING: Usually it's illegal to camp on the beach unless the area is specifically set aside as "camping grounds." Camp out anyway and hope no one bothers you. Often, you can go to campsites in the evening free when no one's keeping tabs. You may even get a free wake up call if you do. Then, beat the crowds, grab your board, and surf for free. (Darby)

CHANGE

DIG DEEP WATSON: SEE A PENNY, PICK IT UP After a show, check out the area in front of the stage for change. You can usually find at least a dollar depending on who played. Hardcore shows yield the most money. (Kerin)

FINDING MONEY: Pick up coins off the street while riding your bike. Mostly you'll find pennies, sometimes quarters. (Wild Don)

CHEESE

YEAH RIGHT: Always keep some kind of seriously processed cheese around (like Cheez Whiz) because when you're poor and starving, you know you'll eat anything. And besides, it never goes bad. (Janice) *(Everyone wanted me to write something after this about how bad "I think" processed cheese is for you. Of course during my health food tirades I don't think I've ever mentioned processed cheese, and since they wanted me to write a comment after this they must already know it's bad for them-ed).*

GOVERNMENT CHEESE AKA REAGAN LOAF: The government buys large quantities of milk from dairy farmers when the market is depressed, as a sort of subsidy to keep many of them from going bankrupt when the prices fall. What they do then is to convert the milk into the most durable and non-perishable form known to man-which is, of course, Velveeta. It's not *called* Velveeta, since Kraft Foods doesn't put their name on it, but a cheese by any other name still tastes as shitty. And after they make it they distribute it to welfare organizations who give it out free. Sometimes you can hear about it on the news, sometimes your welfare officer will give you vouchers. Hey, grab some, then catch a few rats and invite some good friends over for a fondue party. (Butch)

CLUBS

GETTING INTO CLUBS CHEAPLY: There are a number of ways to get into clubs cheaply, or even free. The best of these include the following:

1. GO EARLY. Show up at a club about seven or eight o'clock, right in the midst of the sound check. Everyone just assumes you're with one of the other bands, and pays absolutely no attention to you. Just act like you know what's going on. Free admission.
2. KISS UP TO THE BANDS. Tell a band how great you think they are and you want to see them every time they play. Tell them to call you whenever they play. Usually good for at least getting on the discount list, if not the free list. This works especially well with the bass players in SLUG.
3. KISS UP TO THE BANDS II. Ask the bands if you can carry in their equipment. As long as you take the heaviest amp, you're usually in for free.
4. KISS UP TO THE BANDS III. Ask the bands if you can dance on stage for them. Some nudity may be required.
5. REFUSE TO SEE BANDS anywhere but Jabberjaw for ethical (? –ed) reasons.
6. MAKE FLYERS for an upcoming show. Go to that venue and tell them you're just going in to pass out flyers, and you'll be right out. Be sure printing costs do not exceed club admission.
7. SLEEP WITH BAND MEMBERS. This works especially well with the bass players in SLUG.
8. Flip through BAM and call all the numbers for band hotlines and *discount tickets.* SWINGING THING, ASPHALT BALLET, and RAZZLE are always recommended.
9. GO TO THE RED ONION. Dress to impress. (Ted)

CHURCH

GOD GIVES YOU CASH: I'm sure some of you remember having baskets full of money passed in front of your face in church. How many times did you say to yourself "If only I could have *some* of that dinero"? Well boys and girls, here's a hot tip for those of you low on cash. The Catholic Church has an often quoted bible verse that says "Give to the poor". With this in mind, I should also tell you that the money collected is used to maintain the church and uphold its teachings. Knowing this, reach into the nearest collection basket and take what you need (Scotch tape affixed to your fingers before the Mass may be in order). If anyone gives you shit, tell them to read the Old Testament and pray that God doesn't punish them for their greed. (Nola Scrupulas)

LIFE IMITATES JESUS CHRIST: Start your own religion and get tax benefits. (Darby)

CIGARETTES

FREE SMOKES: I've found that flipping through magazines like Women's Day, and Family Circle at the checkout lines is worthwhile. Anytime I see a coupon for free packs or cartons of cigarettes, I rip out as many as I can. Using a different name on every postcard, I get about five cartons of cigs. Since I only smoke cloves, I either sell the cigs, or give them away to appreciative friends. (Kerin)

DO IT YOURSELF: Roll your own cigarettes and when you're out of rolling tobacco, roll your cigarette butts in the papers. (Justin)

CLINICS

THE VENICE FAMILY CLINIC is open 6 days and 4 nights a week. Included in their services are: daily clinics for children, adults, and the homeless, weekly clinics for babies, women, seniors, and chronic care patients, specialty clinics in cardiology, dermatology, ear/nose/throat, neurology, optometry, ophthalmology, and orthopedics, social work, health education, nutrition counseling, and Enrich – a new pilot program for infants and their families to break the poverty cycle. 604 Rose Ave., Venice, CA 90291. (213) 392-8630 admin, (213) 392-8636 clinic. (Mikki)

LOS ANGELES FREE CLINIC: Provides walk-in and by appointment services: general medical, dental, legal, and psychological. Currently the most accessible one is at Beverly and La Cienega, a new clinic will soon be open on Hollywood Boulevard near Gower. (213)653-1990 (Mikki)

CLOTHING SENSORS

DO SOMETHING ABOUT SENSOR-SHIP: Clothing that has the long, plastic censors on it can usually be stolen easily. All you have to do is cover the sensor with your hand or other object upon exiting. Make sure you know exactly where the sensor reader is located. They can be pulled apart with needle-nosed pliers (though watch out for the ones filled with ink). (Kerin) *(Maybe stealing the device used by the store owners to take of the sensors is in order –Darby)*

PILFERING PANTIES: Go for the lingerie items. Those usually are too delicate to put sensor devices on them. (Darby)

COMPUTERS

SOFTWARE: Computer people are like one big happy networking family (minus the virus-makers). I've got almost every program I've ever wanted and more and to this day have never purchased one of them. Of course all the bigger companies which *do* purchase fonts and programs are just as indisposable as your friends who work for them – let them help you get everything your IBM or Mac needs. (Darby)

CONDOMS

RUBBER RETROSPECT: Guys have a harder *(I should hope it's hard I.P. –Sally Sleezebagel)* time getting condoms than girls. Have all you crusading feminists out there ever thought of that? I think condoms are A-OK, and we guys should carry them at all times. And we should practice techniques on how to deftly unwrap, place and unroll so that not a second is lost between the gleam in the eye and the GRAND GESTURE. OK, fine. But they're *expensive.* And every girl I've ever gotten together with seems to have an infinite supply of the things. "Hey! Where did you get those? Those

advertise

BEN IS DEAD is currently printed every six weeks and our press run is 15,000! Yes folks, that is almost twice as many as Flipside... and ours are free in Southern California. What more could you ask for?

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AMERICA LAND OF THE FREE?

BY MICK BLADDER

Libyan Embassy squatted – April '85

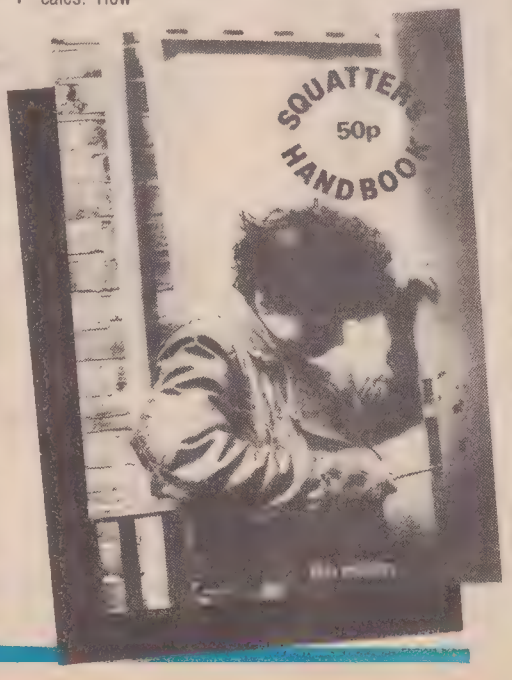
So this issue is about things you can find for free in the United States-should be a short enough issue then, coz let's face it- this isn't the most charitable place on earth, is it? From what I've seen of America, the only thing you're likely to get for free here is a bullet off either a gang or the L.A.P.D.(same thing) or a fatal social disease (although if you walk down Hollywood Blvd. on a Saturday night you can't avoid being handed masses of free religious handbills which have a million and one uses... like for throwing away, or if you're really bored or gullible you should read 'em and hear about the bikers for Christ or Junkies for Jesus or whoever these dickheads are).

Anyway, the point is that in America if you ain't got a credit card you don't exist (which is probably why you get those bums panhandling- "Hey buddy, can you spare some change- I'm saving up for my Mastercard..") And you ain't gonna impress anyone by claiming you're so poor you've had to raffle your arse off down Santa Monica. In England, it's different, we have our dignity even in poverty. Even I, international jet-setter and sex symbol that I am, have to admit that I have been skint before now, but living London is a lot easier on the professional skint chap than is L.A. . I have to confess that I survived six years without doing an honest day's work, without paying a single rent cheque or a single bill. As England quite rightly has a proud Socialist history we have a welfare state which means that the government provides beer money for us unemployed in the form of The Dole (see Andy Capp) and when our livers conk out or we've been fighting just go down to the hospital because, of course, all medical, dental and other things are free on the national health (Thatcher tried to dismantle the welfare state but failed). We ain't sunk so low that we're gonna follow America's example and make people pay just to be ill. When the welfare state was introduced, it boasted that Brits would be looked after by the state from "The cradle to the grave," however the government don't provide enough freebies for us hooligans so we have to go out and take what we want sometimes.

Another advantage to living in Great Britain is a nice legal loophole known as squatting rights which dates back to the middle ages and basically means that if you can find an empty building, house, flat, etc., and if no one is living there or is about to live there, you can squat it and be in legal ownership until a court order is obtained, which because of the crowded state of our courts, takes a minimum of three months. I've lived in mine in London for five years so far, and no court order has even been applied for (hope I don't get evicted whilst I'm sunning myself over here though!!) Squatting is massive in Europe, cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, and Copenhagen have whole areas which are 100% squatted and are tight-knit, well organized and well armed. The authorities have given up trying to evict 'em as it usually ends in riots and near civil war and now these squatter's cities have become tourist attractions in their own right, with squatter's bars and cafés. How-

BUMPER STICKER STOLEN FROM THE LIBYAN EMBASSY

ever, in London we don't squat for social community reasons like those hippies do – we squat to cause trouble: best example being the squatting of the empty Libyan Embassy in '85, which caused major diplomatic repercussions and was loads of fun. We got full press coverage, C.I.A. and MI5 observation, death threats from the P.L.O. and a load of looted goodies left by fleeing diplomats. There was even a Rolls Royce with a full petrol tank in the garage but the police by this point were so unamused by the stunt that they would have probably given us life for driving with out-of-date road tax – and they would have nicked us anyway. Luckily we'd found a nice telephone system inside which taped all the calls, so we phoned up the foreign office and claimed to be from a newspaper asking what the government was going to do about this disgraceful incident and an official admitted that they couldn't touch us because technically it was still Libyan territory and exempt from U.K. laws, so when the riot squad arrived we played 'em the tape and they had to put their truncheons away (tho if the press hadn't arrived it may have been a different story). So three cheers to the boldest squatters alive, Mak, and let that be a lesson to you all – if you want anything for free – take it. Actually I've got one last question to ask you America – why is there no free public toilets over here, for us Brits who are compelled to drink our own body weight daily it is a most distressing state of affairs, not that I don't mind pissing in the street – but it gets a bit boring.



Mick Bladder, a true lover of "the American Way", currently resides in Hollywood where he slaves for a record store kingpin who prefers to advertise in magazines that have Catwoman inside of them. Pure intellect, Mick has dedicated his spare time on keeping a permanent beer buzz and, of course, writing scholarly tales for the unknowing American readers of Ben Is Dead.

Come away; poverty's catching. —Aphra Behn [1640-1689]

are the GOOD kind" (Saxon Ultra-thin). Always the same response: "Oh, I got them at the Women's Clinic." Well, that's just *dandy*. So now you gals know where to go to prepare yourself for a Saturday night at Small's. But why don't the MEN have a clinic, with a Halloween trick-or-treat bowl of rubbers sitting there for *US*? Well, I don't know where a guy can get a *free* condom these days (an unused one, I mean), but a good CHEAP place is the Circus Of Books on Santa Monica Blvd. They have a container full of quality condoms on the counter selling 3 for $1.00. That's cheaper than most places (like supermarkets) that hawk the Trojan (the worst brand) 3-pk. for $2.19, and the Sheik (pretty good) 3-pk. for $2.89. Man, with tax that's a dollar an orgasm – and a lot of girls in L.A. aren't worth that much of an investment! (I.P. Freely)

CELEBRITY CONDOMS: Celebrity Cab Company now has a sign up in the back seat of all their cabs offering free condoms to anyone who asks (and they're not used). (Darby)

OOOH MAMACITA: For *quality* steal Fiestas! – and try to ignore the multi-colors. (Darby) *(Of course there are many "natural" birth control methods that "feel" a lot better and cost a lot less. [check out our next issue for more on this]).*

SCREW THIS: The next time you go to a clinic to get birth control, write that you have sex at least twice a day every month on the form they give you to fill out. You get more contraceptives that way. (Sally Sleezebagel)

COPYMAT

COPY THIS CAT: This doesn't only refer to Copymat but to all horrible copy places who use counters in their machines, Copymat (Hollywood) is just one of the worst of them. What you want to do is go there when the place is busy. You walk in first, ask for a counter, and a few minutes later your friend does the same. After making a few copies, you both go to the register and pay for one of the counters (the other is in your jacket or purse). From then on when you go to the copymat, ask for a counter when you walk in, but use your counter for the majority of your copies. Then when you leave you pay for the counter with only a few copies on it. Two problems with this. #1. They're hip to it and some places (like Copymat) now make you leave your keys. Solution: Make sure it's busy so they won't remember, give them an old stale set of keys (everyone's got some), and just leave them in trade for your new counter. Problem #2. This is only a problem if you leave your brain at home. One time in Copymat we made hundreds of copies on "our" counter. I gave "their" counter to my friend to pay for while I was using one of their free utilities – a cutting board. They rang it up and my friend turns to me with a dreadfully flustered face and whimpers "Darby, it's $21.50." My face suddenly looked just like hers as I realized I'd given her the wrong counter to pay for. On my toes I do the only thing you can when it's all stacked up against you – I denied it. "No, no. That's impossible. We didn't even make that many copies. We don't even have that many copies with us. We only made like 25 copies." I hold a few pages in the air for the cashier to see. He asks where I got the counter, from an employee or from the table? Well, I got the counter from the employee who put the counter on the table, so yes, I got it from the table. "The table here, yes," I stuttered. "Oh," said the cashier, "then it must not have been reset." "Oh yes," I said, "that must have been it." Then he asked, "So how many copies did you say you made?" Always pushing to get away with a little bit more I replied, "Uh, ten or fifteen." Easy as pie, and don't forget to grab some complimentary paper and supplies on the way out. (Darby)

COUPONS

CLIP AWAY: You may think that coupons are stupid, but you can save a lot of money using them. Most major markets (except for Lucky) automatically double their coupons. Two tips: 1. If the coupon says you need to buy two items, try only buying one. A lot of times the cashier won't notice. 2. Use coupons with sale items and sometimes the amount of the coupon will exceed the cost of the item. (Annabelle)

When buying a large amount of groceries, add into your pile of coupons ones for items you didn't even buy. Depending on the cashier, they'll usually take them all off your total. (Darby) When buying tampons, coupons for them are interchangeable. They all end in "ex" anyway, and the cashier won't notice. (Kerin)

CREDIT CARDS

Don't use a stolen credit card in a restaurant with security guards. (Annabelle)

CREDIT CARD RETURN SCAM: When I was working in a clothing store, one of my co-workers let me in on a scam her and her friends had going with American Express credit cards. Someone in the group would steal an AmEx card from someone's purse / wallet /whatever and then turn it over to my co-worker. She would then call the AmEx 800 number and tell them that someone had come into the store and tried to buy something with the card, but when she ran it through the credit card machine, it came up stolen. She would also give a fake description of the supposed shopper, and say that the shopper had run out of the store before security could be called. AmEx always bought the story, and would send my co-worker a reward in the amount of $100 for each card she turned in. By the time I quit my job, she had been rewarded approximately $700. (Kerin)

Steal credit cards from the mail if you're a post office employee or if you get the mail of the former resident in your apartment.

CRUELTY FREE LISTS

Most animal rights and anti-vivisection organizations give away cruelty free lists for free as well as other information. (The New England Anti-Vivisection Society, 333 Washington St., Suite 850, Boston, MA 02108). (Kerin)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

WELFARE: Boy, these people should be working at the DMV for all the help they are. I called them every day for about ten days, and they kept bumping me around and putting me on hold, then promising to send me information, which never came. So, if you are in dire straits and do need financial assistance or case work, I hope you have better luck than I did. (Mikki)

DEPARTMENT STORES

In college we had an assignment once on "Malls." Yes, an exciting topic indeed, and making the best of it, I focused on shoplifting. You can do many things under the *guise* of being a *student*. In this case you can find out the whole security system of the store (big and small), from cameras or two way mirrors in the dressing rooms, to undercover security. With this kind of knowledge... (Darby)

DINE AND DASH

"DINE AND DASH" is an old favorite. I'd only done it a few times before I found out that the waitress/waiter is the one who has to pay for your free meal and before I found out that the percentage of times you get caught is a bit too high. The folks in Europe seem pretty hip to this type of scam. One time when I got caught I was vacationing in Amsterdam. Three of us ate lunch and when we'd finished two of us ran out of the restaurant thinking our other friend knew what we'd planned to do. So we got away but the restaurant held her hostage since she didn't have enough money to pay the bill, forcing us to go back and face up. They let us go without a fuss once we paid. My other memorable dine & dash experience happened in Germany. We were eating in an outdoors area in front of this spaghetti restaurant. After ten minutes of trying to decide if we should run out on the bill, we barely digested our meal and ran from the restaurant to the nearest metro station. We ran up stairs, down stairs, non-stop with no one in sight trailing us. Out of breath, sorta laughing and gasping, the waiter suddenly appeared behind us with the bill and we suddenly had minor heart attacks. Strangely enough after we paid the bill and gave him a tip he thanked us and left like he'd done this a million times before. (Talk about stressful travel). You're right in guessing I've never done that again. (Darby)

Don't dine and dash at a restaurant with security guards. (Annabelle)

DIVORCES

Divorces are really easy with the help of the Free Clinic. Most of these services work on a sliding scale, so if you don't have much income you won't have to pay ANYTHING. Just call up, make an appointment (usually they're backed up a week or two), and they go through the papers with you step by step all the way to how you turn them into the court house in Downtown. When at the court house don't forget, if your income is small they shouldn't charge you for anything either, so don't let them. (Darby)

DOCTORS

Some people run to the doctor the minute they feel a cold coming on. One of the best things I've ever done for not only my bank account but for my health was to stop going to the doctor. (Life without antibiotics is possible... amazing! I should tell ALL of my old doctors about that). Health food stores are indeed the most expensive places to shop – but compared to what you'd usually spend on prescriptions and doctors they can save you a considerable amount of money (now and in the future). (Darby)

DORIS DAY FOUNDATION

This foundation was set up to make adopting a dog easier and cheaper. Call 818/352-8993 and leave a message describing your living situation and the type of dog you

want. They will call you back and you can arrange for a new pet and best friend!! The dog will be free, with all of his or her shots, and they will help you with vet bills for the rest of his or her life. They will also board the dog for free in a private home whenever you go away. (Abby Adams)

DRUGS

Collect pot seeds from friends, plant seeds to grow your own crop, sell crop back to your friends. (Wild Don)

OVER THE COUNTER: This advice is suited for users of up-type drugs. When your money is all gone, and your dealer has closed your line of credit, go to the nearest grocery store and get those klepto fingers moving. What you want to grab are things that contain ephedrine, or pseudoephedrine. Usually, nasal decongestants (Contac 12 Hour, Dynatab, Euphedra [herbal medication]), and asthma medications (Primatene) contain good levels of these. (Kerin)

Buy a head of iceberg lettuce, and take out the hard center part (the "heart". Puree it in a blender, and spread a thin layer on a cookie sheet. Bake until it reaches the consistency of oatmeal. You can smoke this in a pipe, and it's basically the same as opium. (Chip)

OVER THE COUNTER II: (For informational purposes only–not for the novice) RUSH–available in sleazy corner markets and porn stores. Similar to a glue buzz, but stiffer. VICKS INHALERS–break open the container, let it soak in some water for 3-4 hours, then drink the water. You may never sleep again. (Mikki)

DUCT TAPE

Never forget all the wonderful ways it can be used. Shoes, watch bands, car seats, etc... Most likely, if it's ripped, broken, chewed, whatever, you can duct tape it back together just like new. Remember: Why fix it when you can duct tape it. (Janice Kahn)

DUMPSTER DIVING

The best time and place to trash dig are the dorms of universities right before Christmas break and summer break. You wouldn't believe the shit these morons throw out in order to avoid packing – cases of food, stationary supplies, knick knacks, books, even clothes. Bring a trash bag or box to carry your loot. Beware of security and use the stairs instead of the elevators for floor to floor traveling. (Kerin)

FAMOUS PEOPLE'S TRASH: If you know where any famous people live, you can profit from their trash in two ways. First, make an detailed list of everything you find (pretend you are an archaeologist uncovering a lost civilization). This you can sell to the Enquirer later. Second, cart away the good stuff to auction off to your friends who admire the celebrity in question. This is largely, for obvious reasons, a Southern California activity; but you Bay Area blackmailers can look these good sports up in the residential phone directory: Robin Williams, George Lucas, Huey Lewis, Francis Coppola. Consult local listings for the self-important, overpaid talk show stiff near you. (Mikki & I.P. Freely)

photo: Barry Barbour

Thanks to wasteful and lazy sloths, you can get anything you may possibly need right out of the trash. Three helpful hints: 1. If questioned by cops, tell them you're an art student. 2. Climb in and dig all the way to the bottom, that's usually where the goodies are. 3. Watch out for used syringes and dirty diapers. (Annabelle)

HOTEL FOOD The hot tip from someone who knows is that the Holiday Inn in Hollywood has the most food and the coolest staff. Do this: Breeze into the lobby late at night or after breakfast and head up the elevator to the floor of your choice. Check all the food trays people have left outside their doors for room service to pick up. Take what you like, leave the rest for the next person. (Pat Bulsara)

EUROPE

If you ever go, Eurorail passes are godly. One hefty lump sum but you can take the trains anywhere in Europe (within a certain period of time). The best thing is to ride them overnight to take the place of scummy youth hostels & expensive hotels – if you're lucky you'll end up on a German or Swiss train in which the seat may fold down to make a big bed. (Darby)

FAKE OFFICE

Read the business and real estate pages of the paper to see when large companies are relocating. You can then squat in their offices for at least a few months until they are leased again. Particularly useful for wheeler-dealer types who want to impress their "networking" partners. I used to work at this independent film production company. Our "office" was my boss's garage, complete with a corporate laundry facility, dogs and children underfoot, etc. Then we had some VIP Japanese financiers coming into town, and we knew they would not be down with our setup. So we learned that a larger film company was going to be leaving their corprate offices in the Miracle Mile, and we made our move. Through contacts at the firm, we obtained keys and instructions. We informed the building managers that we were the "continuity team" who would be overseeing the final phases of the move. Within days, our garage-office was installed in a swank penthouse—two floors of space and individual offices for the "interns" who were working for free!! The financiers were quite impressed by our digs—not noticing the Doc Martens beneath our huge desks, I guess. One caveat—make sure you know the locations of the bathrooms, and NEVER leave anything irreplaceable overnight, because you may find yourself confronted with a locked door one day. Extra bonus: lots of times businesses leave stuff behind, which is yours for the taking. We got several leather couches, a xerox machine, and some desks. (MH)

FLOWERS

"I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN...": This is how to have a flower garden without spending a cent. First, you start a compost pile by taking all your old scraps like vegetables and banana peels and throwing them in a pile in your yard. Then throw some dirt over it and keep repeating the process for about six months. While the compost is cookin', go around your neighborhood and into alleys to see what's growing in the cracks. Take the trimmings from those plants and plant them in the ground. This makes a mulch. As for the flowers, Rosemary grows like crazy, so go by somebody's yard and take a snippet and throw it in the ground. If you know someone with a Jade tree, ask them for a snippet. They grow like crazy and hardly need any water. Then, once they're big, you can start breaking off trimmings and grow little Jade plants and give them to friends for presents. Good house warming action there. (Helen of Retail Slut)

FOOD

Free dinner every Tuesday at 6pm. St. James Church, Felton and Nelson, N. Redondo Beach. (D. Aston)

Grab food that falls off trucks in Produce district downtown: tomatoes, onions, peppers. (Wild Don)

Donut Shops give their day old donuts away to homeless people. (Damon)

Look for delivery trucks (such as Hostess, and beer trucks) and raid them when the delivery person goes in the store. (Damon)

EMERGENCY FOOD IN THE LA AREA: (213) 551-2929, 1(800)242-4612, 1(800)242-4026 (for the hearing impaired)

I, at one brave, hungry time, would go out on dates (kootie dates) with older men I'd meet (mostly at college) and have them take me (or better yet meet me) to the most expensive places I could come up with. Most of the time I'd be bored silly until the food came but if you do this in the evening just make sure you order a drink or two. When the meal is over get tired and don't go home with the guy unless... he's cute and he's in a band. (Darker)

FREE WAY TO FEEL SUPERIOR

Read the Weekly and realize that these people take themselves seriously. (Mikki)

FRIENDS

They are essential. NEVER EVER EVER steal from them. (Darby)

MR. ROGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD: Make friends with your neighbors, especially older people. Help them with all the little things they see as obstacles but which you find a breeze (driving them places, taking them to the grocery store, etc.). You'll surely hear at least a few great old stories and you may even feel good about yourself. (Darby)

FRUITS

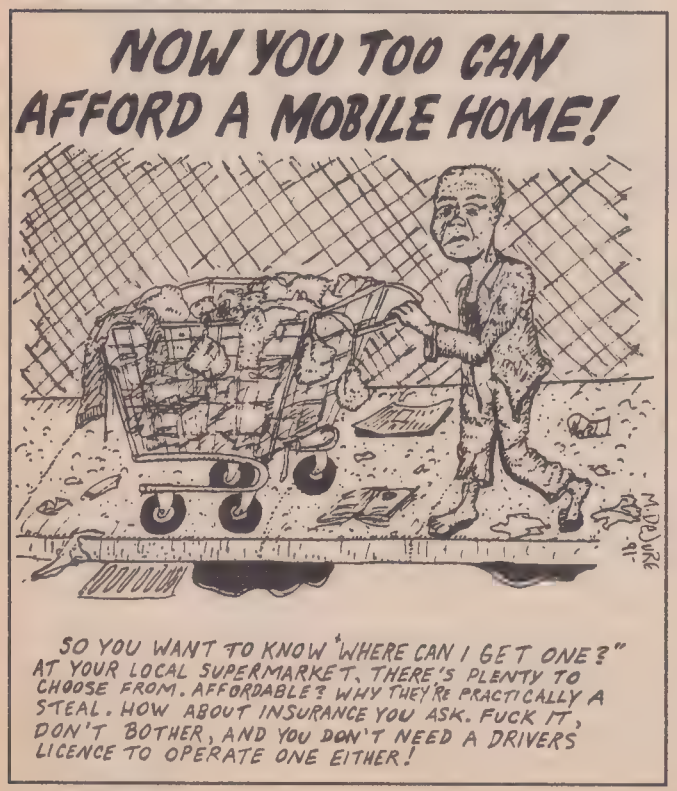
A great way to glean *(I believe the correct term is "reap" or perahps "harvest"–one "gleans" grains and whatnot, not fruit –Mother Nature)* fruit, especially lemons and oranges, is to look for overblooming trees in your neighborhood. Then simply go up to the front door of the place and ask. Just tell them you noticed a lot of fruit on their tree, you're really hungry, and would they mind if you took some. Most people are happy to help out someone in need and will even give you a bag to put them in. If they say no, and you notice that they're letting the fruit fall to the ground, just letting it go to waste, don't be discouraged, just come back with a paper bag when they're not home, but be careful of watchdogs. (Saint Teresa)

GAS

Never buy super unleaded gas. Most places just pour regular unleaded into S.U. tanks just to rip you off. (Kerin)

GET OFF THE STREETS

Angel's Flight provides housing, medical help, etc. for runaways. (213) 463-8525. Also try The National Runaway Service 1-800-621-4000. (Mikki)


NOW YOU TOO CAN AFFORD A MOBILE HOME!
SO YOU WANT TO KNOW "WHERE CAN I GET ONE?" AT YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKET. THERE'S PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM. AFFORDABLE? WHY THEY'RE PRACTICALLY A STEAL. HOW ABOUT INSURANCE YOU ASK. FUCK IT, DON'T BOTHER, AND YOU DON'T NEED A DRIVERS LICENCE TO OPERATE ONE EITHER!

BORN TO BE WILD: Drive 50-55 mph on the freeway to save gas and money. (Wild Don)

GREEN

The Green Cross is a non-profit organization which independently certifies environmental claims made by product manufacturers. For a free listing of those who have made the grade, write to: Green Cross, Public Affairs, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 1111, Oakland, CA 94612 (Mikki)

GRIFFITH PARK

If you can't afford a vacation, head to Griffith Park for the day. Roam the manzanita with the deer and quail, or have a picnic. There's also tennis courts, a zoo, Traveltown (my favorite!), and horseback riding, but they will cost you. Major drawback is the high incidence of rape and murder on the park's more remote trails, so everyone, especially women, should be cautious. Easily accessible by bus. (213) 668-5188 (Mikki)

GROCERY STORES

METAL DETECTORS: Usually the stickers that set the detectors off are only on expensive items like video cassettes and batteries... of course, you can just peel off the stickers if you'd like to. (Darby)

IN-STORE DINING: Don't forget to fill up a bag of bulk candies to munch on while pushing that cart around. (Annabelle) *Don't just eat the bulk candies... eat your dinner! (Darby)*

YOU MAY BE BROKE BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE CHEAP: When I was closest to starving and had to steal 75% of my food, I *didn't* steal Top Ramen or candy bars – actually I ate better then compared to what I can afford to eat now. You must alter your frame of mind and stop thinking poor. It's just as easy to steal lobster as it is to steal cans of tuna. Of course step one is to shop at Gelson's (or the equivalent). Your outlook on life can only improve – let it help you get out of a rut. (Darby)

THE VONS CLUB: You probably wouldn't guess from the looks of him but Nicki, drummer extrodinaire from that famed band Popreject... I mean POPDEFECT, is a Vons Club member. All you have to do (says Nick) is fill out the application, you get your card and then you just flash it and they give you a discount on certain items you bought. Let's just say Nick was really excited about this so there must be something to it – then again he was really excited about the movie Gremlins 2. (Darby)

GROWING FOODS

E I E I O: All this really takes is seeds, dirt, water, and sunlight. If you don't have a yard, or a patch of dirt to plant the seeds in, you'll need some kind of pot or planter. If you don't have money to buy one, you can easily make one out of a few pieces of wood. You can also use sawed off Sparkletts bottles (make sure to poke a hole in the bottom for drainage), cardboard boxes, a soda block on its side, basically anything that will hold dirt. Plant nurseries will usually oblige you if you ask them for some old one, five, or ten gallon containers. Plus, there's always the "freebie" section of the *Recycler* that lists people giving away planters, dirt, plants, and stuff like that. The next step is to fill your container with dirt, and plant your seeds. The seeds are usually about 39¢ to 69¢ a pack, but just think of the value, you get about a hundred or more plants out of just one pack. You can put them in a wet paper towel or soak 'em in water first to germinate them, plant them in little containers and sprout them indoors, or you can just stick 'em in the ground. If you've got pretty hard dirt, clay dirt, or sandy dirt, you'll need some kind of fertilizer to mix in with the soil, so get something. If you can't afford to go down to the nursery and buy some Gromulch, then you can make your own out of dried horse manure; any stable will be happy to give it to you (but if you can scrounge up $3.79, a 50 lb bag of Gromulch or Nitrohumus is worth it). (Saint Teresa)

HAIRCUTS

Join the Marines and get a free haircut (for men only). (Mick Bladder)

HALLOWEEN

FOR ALL YOU DOOMSTERS OUT THERE, THERE'S MORE TO HALLOWEEN THAN FREE CANDY: Hit the stores the day after Halloween to stock up on cool costume accessories (feather boas, cigarette holders), make-up, and creepy skeletal decorations. All the merchandise should be marked down at least 50%. (Kerin)

HAPPY HOURS

Lots of places have a happy hour, and usually they serve hors d'oeuvres. Just buy one drink and eat, eat, eat. The Velvet Turtle serves barbecue chicken and mini-ribs, and usually, Mexican joints like Acapulco or Pancho Villas have lots of different things. Then there's the hoity-toity places in Beverly Hills that have really big spreads. You

Money can't buy friends, but you can get a better class of enemies. –Spike Milligan

may have to endure really bad top forties music, the singles crowd, and uppity waiters, but it's a way to get a free meal. (Saint Teresa)

Here are some placed with a happy hour with free food and cheap drinks on the westside: PESCADOS-318 Santa Monica Blvd. in S.M. Every day 3-7 pm. $1.75 marguerites, $1 beer and a free nacho bar with excellent black beans. TOPPERS, HUNTLEY HOTEL-1111 2nd St. in S.M. Elaborate free buffet, but drinks are the regular price. Madame Wong's West (if you can stand it) 2900 Wilshire Blvd. in S. M. Mon-Fri 5-7 pm. $1 drinks and a free buffet. TAMPICO TILLY'S-304 Santa Monica Place and 1025 Wilshire Blvd in S.M. Mon-Fri 4-6 pm. Free food, but drinks are regular price. So drink slow and eat fast!

THE WAREHOUSE, RED ONION, etc., have free food during happy hour. Two people enter and immediately get plates of food. One goes into the bathroom and eats and the other sits at a table and eats while bullshitting the waitress (ie: "My friend is in the bathroom. I'll wait until he gets back."). Then you switch places and excuses and promptly leave when done. (Damon)

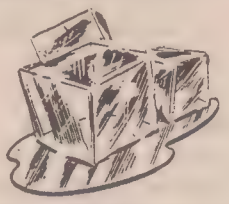
HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) provides information and referrals, identification services, AIDS education, literacy programs, outpatient drug programs, and the Cold Wet Weather Program. It also holds AA and CA meetings every day of the week. The agency is staffed by people who were once homeless themselves and is funded by the CRA and various private organizations. Located at 846 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021. (213) 683-8304. (Wild Don)

HOTEL ROOMS

BILTMORE BITCHING: My friend Tori won a weekend for two at this swankin place, and ended up becoming chums with the front desk man. They gave her a room smaller than what she was entitled to get, and to right this error, they gave her a $100 tab. The desk man then told her it was very easy to get free shit by complaining. He said that people could even weasel free nights out of the management by just bitching about the service, or the accommodations. Anything to please the customer. (Kerin)

ICE



If you're on the road you can fill up your ice chest at a hotel or motel instead of paying for a bag at the store. (Annabelle)

ICE ICE BABY: If you're a necrophiliac and have a hard time getting corpses, you can fill up a bathtub with icewater and place your loved one in it. When his/her lips are blue, and the flesh is appropriately clammy and unresponsive, go at it! (Reginald)

I.D.S

TRADE SHOWS: Get all the free samples you ever wanted. Make up a phony business card and xerox it off on cardstock to get in. (Ivy)

MILITARY ID: I don't have a drivers license and the guy at the door (of the Shamrock) asked me for ID. And I flashed him my ID and he said, 'Cool, you're in the military. Did you go?' And I said no, I never got called. Then he called me a pussy and he let me in for free. (Guilty Gil') *See also: Clubs.*

STUDENT ID: These will get you discounts at art stores, museums, photo developing places and the like. If you aren't a student borrow someones (photoless) ID card or fuck, why not make your own.

ILLEGAL ALIENS

(WARNING—WRITTEN BY A PARENT. DANGER—LOOK FOR TWISTED LOGIC AND INCONSISTENCIES!!) Unfortunately, for all you left-wing readers, the average illegal alien who works for me earns $13,000 per year, plus $4,400 in medical benefits. The better workers earn over $16,000. If they don't take the medical benefits they can take home $1560 extra per year. So, if you have any moral values, making money off of illegal aliens is not very profitable. But, leaving morals behind, try setting up two separately owned house or business cleaning services. Let's assume a firm pays you $120 per month to clean up their offices once a week. It takes 17 hours per month to do the work. By hiring some dope-smoking, long-haired American putz, you would have to pay $4.25 per hour, plus $1.35 per hour for taxes, insurance, and supplies. *(Pardon my father – he has obviously been listening to too much Rush Limbau lately).* The total cost ($5.60 x 17 hours) is $95.20, with a gross profit of $24.80. On the other hand, give an illegal alien a flat $50.00 per month for each job, and you gross $70.00 per month for each job. Get him twelve accounts and he earns $600.00 per month with no taxes taken out because he's an independent businessman. You will earn $840.00 per month. With ten of these guys out there you might just gross enough to pay for your health foods and drugs. (Dad)

INSURANCE FRAUDS

I. Auto insurance scams: get a couple of cars, perhaps old Toyotas ('70 or '71 or newer models), and three of your most trusted friends. Insure both cars and agree as to who will drive which cars. Find a strong tree, take car A and drive head first into it, being careful not to wrap the front end. Take car B and back it into the, tree careful not to wrap it either. Then you decide on a location, preferably a busy intersection (. Olympic and Vermont). Take car A and rear end car B. Car B has the three friends in it. When the police arrive, the driver of car A admits his/her guilt to the collision, saying that it was his/her fault through carelessness or whatever. The occupants of car B will call car A's insurance adjuster as soon as possible. They will also seek treatment and therapy for soft tissue injuries. The coverage for car A is usually $30,000.00, so each of the occupants will get a settlement of $10,000.00 each. You split up the settlement among yourselves, then wait about nine months to a year and the driver of car A becomes a passenger in car B and so on. Just invest in a couple of cars and change the cast of characters. Then repeat the process. (Sir Ty)

II. This type of scam is for pros only, as it will get you time behind bars if you fuck it up. It is a fairly simple premise: insure something, get it "stolen", collect the money. In the case of a friend of mine, he started out with a couple of car stereos, small time items, and then went for the gold. Deciding he wanted to go to Europe and not feeling like working for a year to save up, he insured a good amount of musical equipment, some his, some borrowed. He put it all in a garage, played it for a while, and then it got "ripped off" one late night. He gave the borrowed stuff back and stashed the rest and banked about $4,000 of travel money. It worked in his case, but don't hold me responsible for any problems you may have with this information. (Evan)

KRISHNA DINNERS

A WHOLE OTHER WORLD: Free at Watsuka and Venice Blvds. at 5:30 every weekday, and on Sun. 213/836-1269. Call Govinda's in West LA. (P.S. Govindas also have the cheapest and the best wheat grass juice in town). (Darby) P.S. Watch out for weird shoeless people bearing strings.

LAUNDRY

Ladies, if you don't happen to have a fresh pair of underwear available when you wake up in the morning, a sightly used pair turned inside out will do you just fine. Other ways to save laundry money: move to a colder climate (you won't sweat as much); use less detergent than they tell you to on the box; steal other people's clothes from the dryer. (Mikki) (Mikki, that's *horrid – PEOPLE: never steal clothes from dryers – especially mine –ed.)*

LEECHES

BEN SYNDROME: The best way to go broke. There are certain kinds of people who are comparable to an awful rash or fatal disease. These people have only one specialty and that is to make other people feel sorry for them and then try to get whatever they can. The worst situation is having a relative who is a leech; like a sister for example. If this is the case by all means do whatever you can to steer clear of this individual. Block out any compassion you might (god know why) feel for them. Never get in the position where they might be able to take advantage of you, because they *will!* (Darby)

MAIL

TRICK THE POST OFFICE: Put the address of the person you're writing to where your address would normally go (the return address spot). Without affixing postage, drop it in a mailbox near the city you're sending it to and it will be returned to sender. (Mikki & Darby)

THE BULKIER THE BETTER: Sounds like a drag, but bulk mail can truly save you hundreds. Of course, if you don't need to mail out 200 copies of the same item, find someone who works in or has access to a mail room. Probably someone you know can mail stuff from his or her work. (Darby)

METALS

Mark Paulene has in the past aluded to his economical way of collecting machinery and parts for his work.

The general recommendation is to wear overalls and a clipboard, be clean cut, with a lot of grease on your hands, and walk/break into large industrial and farm machine warehouses and just load the stuff up and truck it out. If anyone stops you just act official and like another one of the local good 'ol boys. Think about it, the NEA couldn't be bankrolling those Manson-Dinosaur machines could they? Unfortunately we were not able to reach Mr. Paulene or his associates for comment, as their whole compound is being run by his latest generation of cybernetic robots. I can't wait for like 10 years from now when one of his little cyber 'experiments' gets loose and starts dusting people on Haight with its death ray. "Mark, I thought YOU had the controls," "No, I don't have it, I thought you had it....oops!" (Ethan)

MILK CRATES

There are usually dozens of milk crates stacked behind your local supermarket, dairy, or liquor store. The crates are great for holding or carrying anything that will fit into them. (Damon) *(One problem is of course that they probably weigh more than what you need to carry in the first place.)*

MOVIES

On a busy night just go up to the exit door and tell them you just exited but that you have to go to the bathroom. Looking pathetic and desperate at the same time would surely help. Once you're in, and if it's a big place and you've nothing better to do, check out the schedule and see if you can take in at least two movies. Do this with someone or even treat yourself to a day alone – movies can really clear your head if your worried about finances, at least for the time being. (Darby)

FREE MOVIE HOTLINE: Call 777-Film for movie listings and a few ads.

A FEW CHEAP MOVIE HOUSES: The Eagle (Downtown), the State (Downtown), the Ritz, the Vine (Hollywood Blvd.), the Orpheum, the New Beverly (Wilshire across from Carnation).

UCLA and maybe other colleges have film classes that meet a few times a week. You can sit in with the class and watch the movies for free. On Wednesdays, they have free movies at UCLA. (Damon)

MEMBERS of LACMA can go to their screenings every Friday and Saturday for free, and they can make reservations. They're usually great oldies, restored to archival qualities. You'd be amazed how different it is to see a film without sticky floor and icky popcorn flooding your senses. Better for cuddling. (Artfag)

MUGGING

This is obviously something someone *really* desperate may do. We obviously know nothing about it.

MUSEUMS

MOCA and the Temporary Contemporary are both open late on Thursday nights and admission is free (in the summers they even serve hors d'oeuvres!). LACMA is free every other Wednesday morning (kind of inconvenient, but they hardly ever have anything worthwhile anyway) (Mikki)

The LA County Art Museum and the George C. Page Museum (the tarpit one) over on Wilshire in LA use a little metal badge that shows the employees who has and has not paid. They change the colors of the badge each day and usually, especially if you go later in the day, you will find some on the ground (people love to litter). Do a good service to the environment by cleaning up their mess, and do a good service to yourself, see all the exhibits for free! Collect all the colors and keep them in your car. Treat your boy or girlfriend for a day out. (Darby with tips by Alan)

NEWSPAPERS

Saturday or Sunday at the grocery store save yourself that extra buck. Instead of telling the cashier you're going to pick up a Sunday newspaper on the way out just pick it up. If anyone ever questions you you obviously just forgot to tell the cashier, but usually no one even pays any attention. (Darby)

NITROUS OXIDE

This eats away those brain cells but gives you an interesting short-lasting high. There are a few different ways I know to get it and use it. Most people get their introduction to Nitrous through either the Dentist office or whipped cream containers. Unless you need to get a tooth pulled, just head on over to your grocery store, pick up a whipped cream canister, hold it upright, and WITHOUT shaking it, stick the tip in your mouth and push the nozzle thing to the side and inhale. Then jump on your shopping cart and roll up and down the aisles... Weeee! Once you use up the nitrous (one whipped cream container only gives you a few "hits") you won't be able to get the whipped cream out – that's why it's easier to just use them at the store. If you want larger quantities you can by small bottles of nitrous alone at your local head shop (they have these contraptions that you can stick on the end so you can get the nitrous from the container and into a balloon, which you then can inhale [Note: if you inhale it directly you will burn yourself – it is very cold]). To save lots of dough though just run over to your local restaurant supply store which sells them as well. The *best* way to get lots for cheap though is to get your hands on a tank and get the tank filled. Then you can go to the "Dead" shows and sell balloons of nitrous for a buck and make a few thousand over the weekend. (Darby) *See also: Drugs*

ON-THE-JOB THEFT

Some people consider this included in the job.

It's embarrassing yes but I used to work at Mc Donald's when I was just a tot – the only place I could get a job. No excuse, I know. But still I was pretty hip back then anyway. What I'd do to pay for my youthful expenses was ring people's orders up and then, by accident, forget to ring up, for example, one of their Big Macs and their Filets of Fish before totaling it. Then I'd have to calculate the correct price in my head, but since the total on the register was less I'd have extra money in my register. Then, at the end of the day, my friend would come in, order something, I'd give her the wrong change back (all the extra money in my register) and then toss her a big bag full of free food for her help. (Darby)

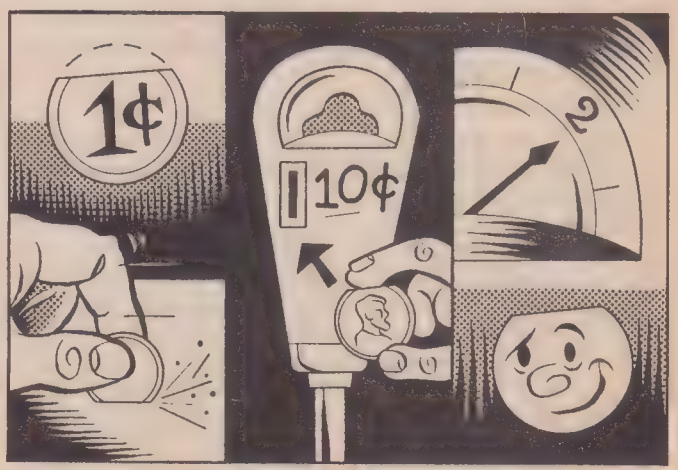
PARENTS

Voodoo hexes work well to change your parents into unrecognizable zombies (when they are take 'em for what they're worth). Find a voodoo priestess and tell her what you want done. (Kerin)

PARKING METERS

SHAVING PENNIES: For parking at those pesky meters, just get a penny and scrape it against the pavement until it fits through the dime slot. This might sound like a lot just to save nine pennies, but hey, it's better they're your nine pennies than the city's. (Janice) *(Actually Janice, the penny in the dime slot gives you [when you do it right] two hours of time. See graphic.)*

USE A BIG HAMMER: "Is this going to be used against me in a court of law? The parking meters in downtown which use quarters only are all like LED crystal digital watches now, they're not like the other meters. I don't know quite how they work, but I just thought, they look like they're expensive and after getting a ticket yesterday I was just thinking that the thing I should carry around is a hammer... and just smash them. The thing is that downtown is pretty deserted, especially if



NECROMANCE

human & animal
skulls & bones
preserved animals
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silver & niobium
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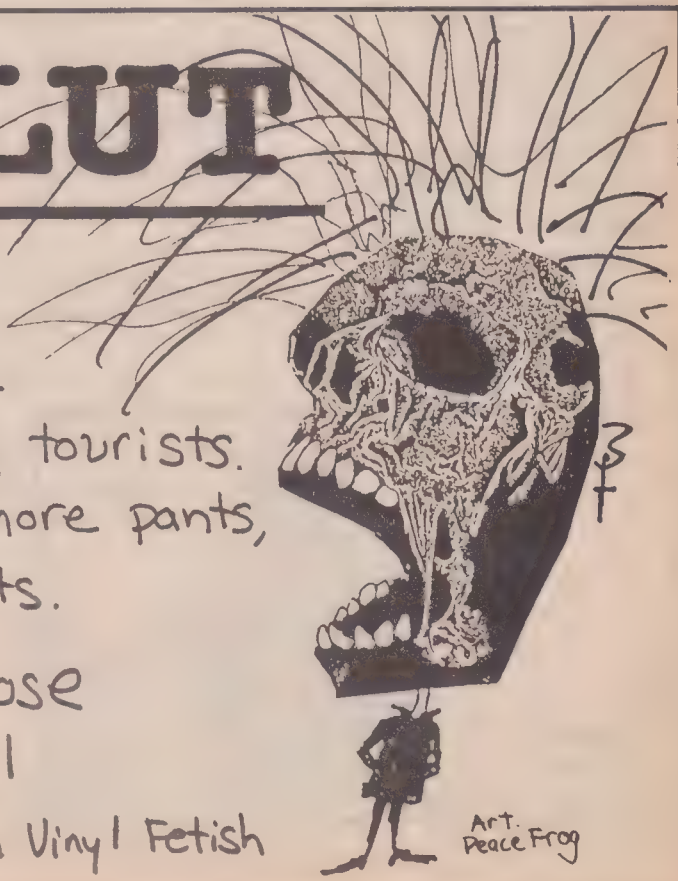
Yes we'll be back in the heart of things scaring tourists. We'll have more shoes, more pants, more dresses, & more sluts.

7264 Melrose
this April
Kitty corner from Vinyl Fetish

TM



you get a little bit south, and it wouldn't be a big deal. Kinda glance around... you don't see anybody, just take a good wallop. Fuck the thing up, make 'um pay for a new one." *But YOU'RE going to pay for a new one?* "No, because it's a privately owned company and they pay for every thing. They pay for the cars, they pay for the meters..., it doesn't come out of tax payers. We've got to fuck up their profit margin. We've got to make it too expensive for them to do business." *You don't feel bad about doing that?* "Not at all. Not when they're profiteering off of error or weakness." (Potsie Vicious)

PARKING METER MAIDS

Use a big hammer as well.

Follow meter maids around and put money in the meters of almost unfortunate victims of the parking enforcement. It's only a few dimes or quarters for you but its 13 bucks or more for the car owners. Think – it might be you someday. (Darby)

PARKING SIGNS

"I SEE THE PARKING SIGN AND I WANT TO PAINT IT BLACK.": Don't be a victim. Take those signs down or paint them black. Especially when they put up restricted permit parking signs on your street even though there are no businesses for blocks and there's always been plenty of parking. (Darby)

PARTY CRASHING

We recently went to a wedding reception at a very fancy hotel on Crescent Heights. The couple's names were listed on a bulletin board in the lobby, so we started thinking how easy it would be to show up dressed nice, and pretend to know either the bride or the groom. Usually at these receptions there are hundreds of (drinking) people so no one would ever have a clue. (Annabelle)

PIZZA

Order a pizza and when the pizza delivery person arrives, invite him or her in. Meanwhile, a friend is out stealing pizza from the pizza wagon. (Damon) Another Domino's deal is to just go there and ask them for cold canceled pizzas. (Ryan Hopeless)

PREGNANCY ALERT!

Be wary of those places which offer free pregnancy tests, in the Yellow Pages™ or whatever. Lots of them are crazy anti-choice people who will try to brainwash you into making their decision instead of your own. Fuck them, and fuck those expensive drugstore tests too. Head over to your local Planned Parenthood, or to the Free Clinic (213-653-1990) and get a test there, on their sliding fee scale. (Mikki) *I've never had a problem, but if you don't want to deal with anti-abortion protesters those pregnancy tests are pretty easy to snag from the grocery stores. (Darby)*

PRICE TAGS

Change the price tags on the items you wish to buy with those of cheaper items. (Darby)

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photo: Don Lewis

HOMELESS MAN, DOWNTOWN LA

photo: Don Lewis

PROPOSED SITE FOR BOBBY ICON'S EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE/EXIBITION SPACE.

A MAN TO LEARN FROM: Bobby Icon founded the Voltage Loft, an underground club in the mid-80s. These days, he occupies a long disused strip of railroad track downtown where he lives as close to the earth as possible with his girlfriend Jowee and their five dogs. He offers ways of efficient use of our resources which will save us money as well as the earth in the long run.

One way is aerobic composting. Run kitchen scraps through a food processor, then blend into an open container of nitrohumous, which is available at most plant nurseries. Place the container near a window so the sunlight and oxygen can break down the scraps into compost. Once a month, collect the finished compost and use to grow potted indoor plants. The plants will help clean the air and provide oxygen. More info can be found in The Complete Book of Composting (Rodeo Press).

Water from washing the dishes and using the shower can be saved and recycled to water the compost and plants. Use a biodegradable soap such as Dr. Bonne's, EcoSoap, or Ivory Soap. Details can be found in Garbage Magazine, PO Box 5147, Boulder, CA 80321-147.

Recycle green, brown, and clear glass, plastic containers, and aluminum cans in separate barrels.

Buy foods in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging as well as save money. Forming or joining a food co-op is a good way to get the low bulk price.

Use photovoltaic panels (available at RV suppliers) to charge 6-volt golf cart batteries which in return can power lights, TVs and appliances. See Garbage Magazine for details.

Finally, look at what you do every day and see if there is a more energy efficient way of doing it. By doing this, you will become more self-empowered, as you realize you are helping reduce the environmental crisis.

A final note: Bobby plans to convert half of the land he occupies into an outdoor experimental exhibition and performance space. Southern Pacific Railroad company, however, is threatening to kick him off the land. Those interested in seeing Bobby's plans become reality can send their letters of support and/or requests for information to: Bobby Icon, 2401 S. Santa Fe Ave., #16, LA CA 90058-1100. (Wild Don)

PRO BONO

PRO BONO PUBLICO: for the public good or welfare. When attorneys take on cases without compensation to advance social cause, they are said to be representing the party "pro bono publico". The Legal Aid Services and Public Counsel as well as local community Legal Aid Services offer free legal services to persons on need or ability to pay basis. There are numerous listings for these services in the phone book. A person contacts one of the Aid Services and sets up an interview, to see if he or she has a case that warrants assistance. Sometimes a simple letter is needed to resolve many disputes. I'm not quite sure what is needed to qualify for help, but a simple phone call should set you in the right direction. (Sir Ty)

El buey solo se lambe —Abuelito Chungo

REBATES

It's worth it to spend the 29 cents postage to send in for a rebate. Rebate forms can be found in the coupon section, the Thursday food section and on the product's packaging. (Annabelle)

COMPLAINT LETTERS: You can write to any manufacturer complaining about their product and many times they will send you a coupon for something free. Here's an excerpt from a letter I received from the PRESIDENT of Dreyer's Icecream- "...We at Dreyer's are dedicated to manufacturing products made from the finest ingredients available. Unfortunately, we are occasionally victim of human or mechanical error. In your situation where you mentioned that your purchase was lacking sufficient berries, this was indeed an error. Although our Dreyer's Grand Light recipe does contain fewer added ingredients than our original ice cream recipe, it sounds as though the machine which feeds the berries into the Dreyer's Grand Light was not operating properly and, therefor, an insufficient quantity was mixed into the product. Please be assured that our quality control department had been alerted to this matter and will be taking specific measures to guard against this happening again. We are very sorry that this incident impaired your enjoyment of our product. Please accept the enclosed gift certificate for one quart of Dreyer's Grand Light to replace your purchase..." (Annabelle)

THE RECYCLER

OK, so it's not free, but a buck fifty ain't much and what other place can you find blowdryers, toothbrushes, and wedding dresses (never worn!) as well as the traditional cars, apartments, etc. It's also free to place ads, so if you don't want to deal with a garage sale, you can get rid of your stuff that way before the rent is due. (Mikki)

RECYCLING

CURBSIDE RECYCLING: Need some extra change? Many homeowners in Los Angeles put out bins with their recyclables. Drive around and take what you need. (Annabelle)

The California Integrated Waste Management Board is a state agency which is supposed to regulate and aid businesses on waste management. Whether or not they're doing any good at all, you can still call their toll free number for where to take your batteries, old paint, used toner cartridges, motor oil, etc. 1-800-553-2962 Also try the Los Angeles Recycling Program 1-800-CITYSAN. (Mikki)

FOOD SCAM (FAST FOOD): This is a classic that has potential outside of the fast food world and has been time tested again and again to be easy, fast, and effective for obtaining free grub.

STEP ONE: Pick what you want for free: tacos, burgers, fries, drinks, whatever and get the phone number of the place. Create a business name and adopt a hic accent, a real normal name, and give them a call.

STEP TWO: THE CALL. "Is this the manager? Can I speak to the manager please? Yeah, this is Bob Wilson down at Westside Electric. I sent my boy (or girl) in a little while ago to pick up a rather large order. You remember, that don't you?" (They almost always say yes even though they have no idea what the fuck you are talking about. It's the old 'Please the Customer' rule in full force.) "Well, it seems that when he/she got back, there was some items missing." Then tell them exactly what you want. Two, three, maybe four items and then you're pushing your luck. Sometimes the managers aren't as cooperative and think they're detectives or something. They ask stupid questions about receipts and overall costs. Just act really ignorant and tell them that you're looking for the receipt, but it might already be in the trash compactor or something. If you keep wasting their time on the phone, they will usually just give in and give you what you want.

STEP THREE: Get your food. Wait 10-15 minutes, march in and tell them that you're here to pick up the food for (company name). If they ask if you were the one who originally came in, you say NO. HOT TIP: Go to a thrift store and find a workshirt or hat from some company no one ever heard of, use the company name, and wear it in the fast food place. This adds an extra authentic touch that they just can't refuse. If you're really hungry or there's a group of you, then hit 3 or 4 places in a row. They always cluster them conveniently, so get your drinks there, fries here, burritos there, etc. Good luck. (Evan)

RESTAURANTS

Drink undrunk Espresso, cookies, etc., at coffee houses. (Wild Don)

Don Bolles told me to eat at Gorky's before 11 am for a *really* cheap breakfast... so there. (Darby)

ALL YOU CAN WRAP: Don't be afraid to wrap up all the excess off your plate and stick it in your purse at All You Can Eat places. The management knows people do that and would rather throw the uneaten food away, so watch out. (Darby)

FOOD SCAM #2: Sometimes, restaurants (usually pizza places [Shakey's]) will have a weekly buffet night. If there happens to be one of these near you, go in and pay once. Eat the food, then steal the plate. Next week, go in (have the plate in a backpack, purse, whatever) and buy a drink, then help yourself. It's best to wait until it's really busy, so they won't figure you out. In some very special cases, they bring the food to you so just sit down and wait till they come around. What wonderful service. (Evan)

FREE CONDIMENTS – Never buy ketchup, mustard, sugar, ashtrays, napkins, straws, soy sauce, non-dairy creamer, hot sauce, toothpicks etc. These can be gotten free (stolen) from any nearby restaurant or fast food joint. (Annabelle) *(In the fast food places they usually keep some supplies in the cabinets under the areas for condiments. When it's busy just open it up and grab bags of what you need. –Darby)*

RESEARCH SUBJECTS

In the back of *The Daily Bruin* (UCLA campus paper; free) you will find lots of ads asking for research subjects. Lots of them are psychological, some are physical. The best money seems to be if you've got some disease like hepatitis, mono, etc., and your antibodies are "fresh", as the researcher told me. The only catch is that you get paid per donation (usually around $50), so you've got to have the stamina to give about 2 pints a week. PS – there is the possibility that these people will synthesize some wonderdrug from your antibodies and profit beyond their wildest dreams. Think about it. (Mikki)

RETURNS

You can buy anything you need for only a short time, use it and return it as long as it doesn't look used. (HI MIKE!!!!) (Annabelle)

Did you ever try stealing a power drill from Target? I have... about 30 of them. That's how I earned my income at one point. Not that I supplied tools to handymen but I'd return the things for the full refund (which was around $50 a pop). The best time to return items is during the biggy holidays because you can return just about anything pain free (say it was a gift) with or without a receipt. So they won't catch on if you're doing this on a regular basis, just return the things to several different Target stores (or even different stores completely like Kmart, or ones that have higher prices). Or have your friends do it for you. If you do choose Target beware because there's a good chance that they will catch you (they must pay their security team well). And never underestimate the power of a narc – which could be *any* employee yearning to make an extra buck by turning you in. That's what happened to me. I didn't end up getting caught with a power drill in my purse though... ironically, this time I was stealing a bolt lock for the front door of my apartment. (Darby)

REWARD

There's a place called WETIP, Inc. with a toll free number (1-800-78-CRIME) which you can call to report "arson, terrorism, vandalism, gang violence, drug trafficking, rape, burglary, crimes against the elderly, murder, robbery, theft, crimes against children (abuse, neglect, molestation, etc), and various types of fraud." The company, which is non-profit and tax exempt (so they say), says that rewards can be as high as $500.00, so what have you got to lose? If your neighborhood is anything like mine, you see this stuff all the time. The highest priced information, for some reason, is "regarding the cultivation of marijuana in the National Forest System," for which you can get $5,000. Why this is worth more than rape and murder, I don't know, but some of you campers out there might profit from it. (Box 1296 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730-1296) (Mikki)

WHERE OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE: Keep an eye out for posters of lost animals in your area. Perhaps you'll be the one to reunite the animals with their care takers – and you may make a new friend or perhaps even get a few bucks.

ROLLERBLADES

Find out when they are doing a demo at Huntington Beach, and bring along a shitty pair of tennis shoes and a bogus set of car keys. When you try on the skates, give the person your keys and say that you didn't bring your I.D. with you to the beach. Skate

around the parking lot for awhile, and when nobody's watching, skate up to the parking lot entrance where your friend is waiting in a car. Hop in, throw a wig or hat on, and drive off into the sunset. (Ivy)

RTD

Borrow someone's bus pass – there's no photograph on them. Or, lif you only have to go to the next stop, get on the bus and fiddle around looking for money or exact change in your pockets. When the bus stops, just hop off. Sometimes you can drag it out for two or three stops. (Darby)

SAFE RIDE

If you don't have a car, you can call SAFE RIDE and pretend that you were out with some drunks who abandoned you when you insisted on driving: therefore you need a ride home. Of course YOU can use this ploy to get to where you're going as well as return—they'll never know. (Teenbeat)

BE THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION AT ALL THE HAPPENING SOCIAL FUNCTIONS! BE THE ENVY OF ALL YOUR FRIENDS! BE THE FIRST PERSON ON YOUR BLOCK TO GET IT THE EASY WAY WITH:

THE POSTMISTRESS' EASY TO FOLLOW MAGICK GUIDE!!!

Yes YOU, faithful Ben Is Dead reader, can get whatever you want with the least amount of effort by following these easy magick spells. All you need is a little bit of privacy and time and you can be on your way to attaining all you desire.

In keeping with the Broke theme, I present for your perusal some simple hocus-pocus to attain money:

SPELL NUMBER ONE: Plant and grow ginger roots to attract money or sprinkle the powdered root into your jacket pockets. You can also sprinkle the powder on money to gain more.

SPELL NUMBER TWO: Arrange seven nickels in the form of a cross and burn one candle on each end (four in all). Use red candles for financial gain thru a marriage. White candles will bring business gains and an increase in money generally. Black candles will bring great wealth thru an inheritance. Allow each of the four candles to burn themselves out completely.

SPELL NUMBER THREE: Boil the herbs perejil, parami, yerba bruja, pacholi and five yellow roses in several gallons of water and use it for a bath. Some honey and esencia de dinero (essence of money) are added to the bath after it has cooled. This wash is used during five consecutive nights, asking Oshun for the money needed, and burning a yellow candle in her honor each of the five nights.

Please note: Results will vary depending on the amount of effort invested. Ben Is Dead is not responsible for any gory, wailing apparitions that may materialize due to using these spells. Please refrain from attempting any of the above if you are a blonde voodoo priestess of Mexican decent and own a bail bond businesses as painful convulsions resulting in death by suffication will occur.

SAMPLES

HICKORY FARMS will give you free samples automatically, but you'll have to brave the mall to get there. There's little old women in aprons wielding smoked salami, cheese and crackers. You can keep going back to different ladies, then after the first one has forgotten you, make the rounds again and scam a small meal. Then for dessert, go over to 31 Flavors and ask to sample the ice-cream. Feign indifference and keep getting tastes of different flavors. Then, after you've tasted almost all 31, just say you're just not sure if you like any of them and you changed your mind and decided on frozen yogurt instead. Supermarkets have demonstrations and samples too, but it's usually just soda crackers and hot-dogs, topped with Velveeta, or new, improved Sizzlean. (Saint Teresa)

PAVILIONS grocery stores have people giving samples of various kinds of foods almost every weekend, and so do QUINN'S and GELSON'S. Your best bets are the ones in wealthier neighborhoods. Note: if you're a vegetarian or otherwise dietarily restricted, you may not get too much out of this. You can, however, go to the deli section of EREWHON and ask to taste everything, then leave without buying anything. (Mikki, with thanks to Sofia)

MS. GOOCH'S gives out free samples each and every day – they have a whole section set up just for that, and they always have at least three different foods for you to try. (Darby)

FREE CIGARETTES OR CANDY BARS When you're downtown, look for big crowds accumulating in the middle of the sidewalk. Candy and tobacco manufacturers often send temp workers out on the streets to hand out free samples of a new product that they would like to see us all strung out on. Go around 4 or 5 times if you really like whatever it is they've got. Candy is particularly popular, with a lot of Beatlemania-style pushing and shoving going down, so you might have to be a little aggressive. Sometimes, with the cigarette promos, they send people into bars and clubs. Hang out at The Shamrock long enough and you'll be stocked for your nic-fits, plus they usually also have corporate-logo hats, t-shirts, etc. Of course, this is to their advantage, so you can become a walking billboard for the very stuff you are addicted to. (Mikki & Butch)

FREE SOAP, MOISTURIZERS, ETC, IN THE MAIL Companies often send out big mailings of samples of their new products (laundry detergents are a favorite, as they are constantly "improving"). The only trick is to know when a mailing is going out, so you'll have to rely on chance, or getting to know a mailperson. This occurs more in wealthier neighborhoods, but if you get on a roll, you can steal from the entire block. (Mikki)

SAVE THE RAINFOREST

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is a non-profit activist organization dedicated to saving the world's rainforest (we lost thousands of acres of rainforest in the recent Costa Rica earthquake). RAN also works with human rights organizations to protect indigenous peoples. To receive a FREE Rainforest Action Guide, write to: Rainforest Action Network, 301 Broadway, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94133 (Mikki)

SELLING CLOTHES ETC...

Selling clothes and other items to thrift and other used clothing stores is always a good way to make money. But then, why sell your own stuff? Sell your mom's clothes (especially if you're mad at her), or sell stuff from other people you're mad at. It will definitely make you feel better. (Janice)

YOUR TRASH IS MY NEW STORE: If you open a store, buy everything used. Just scour, scour, scour used places and talk to everyone and say you need stuff. You'd be surprised what people clean out of their closets. They'll have mannequins and couches they don't want. Also, don't buy any fixtures new, ever. I mean unless you have the money or need something special. Just find stuff. (Helen of Retail Slut)

SEX

I'M JUST A GIGOLO: Find someone who will pay you to have sex with them on a regular basis. (Wild Don)

SHOPLIFTING

Some stores have bags for bulk items such as dog food. You can sneak some high cost items such as tuna, caviar etc. in the same bag and end up paying only the cost of the bulk food. (Annabelle)

SHOPPING CARTS

Someone told me you get $10 for each shopping cart you return to the grocery store.

Your love gives me such a thrill, but your love won't pay my bills. I need money.

SPERM FOR SALE

CALLING ALL VIRILE, CASH POOR YOUNG MEN: Go to Kryler. The rumors of sexy young nurses who will "help" you along aren't true, but you do get your choice of tapes or magazines to get you in the mood (I chose both). (Lance, as told to Mikki)

SPONSORSHIP

The sound man at the Whiskey (Louie) advised that to get sponsorship you should write to the company (ie: Zildjian, Paiste, Ernie Ball, Fender – any equipment manufacturers), say you play a lot of shows (half dozen times a month), you tour a lot, have a great following, and tell them you take out lots of ads (send in clippings or even just make up some mock ads). Tell them you swear by their product and are looking for sponsorship. Supposedly a lot of companies respond to that and will send you equipment or tell you where to go to get it for free. Nothing to loose. A lot of people don't try it cause they think it won't work, but these companies have it in their budget to do that. (Alan)

STAMPS

Cut uncancelled postage stamps off envelopes and reuse. (Wild Don)

Take postage stamps that are canceled, you cut them off the envelope, you soak them in rubbing alcohol for about 2-3 hours (moving them to cleaner alcohol approximately every 1/2 to 1 hour or so) and the post mark comes off them. Usually about 2/3rds of the stamps you can reuse. I work at Blacklist Mailorder (which gets lots of mail) and I'm doing a single, so all the postage will be free – so the singles will be pretty cheap. It's better than waxing though because the person on the other end doesn't have to know. (Richard Northern)

You can also put soap or glue over the stamps. When the person on the receiving end gets them, they just mail the cancelled stamps back to you when writing back. Then you just wipe the ink off those coated stamps.

SURVIVAL

For a free copy of a survival guide which provides first aid and emergency (poison, earthquake, etc) tips, write to: Pacific Bell, First Aid and Survival Guide Offer, 140 New Montgomery St, Room 1208, San Francisco, CA 94105. It's available in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and English. Keep in mind that it's from a corporation as ubiquitous and intrusive as the government. (Mikki)

TAXES

Take an ad out in Ben Is Dead Magazine. While you are supporting creative thinking and Kerin's drug habit (male rock stars are my drug –Kerin) (yeah right –Darby) you can take the cost of the ad off of your taxes. (Darby) *See also: BID ad rates.*

T-SHIRTS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES: Wear T-shirt rejects found in dumpsters of T-shirt printing factories. (Wild Don)

THE BEST OF COMETBUS'

25 FUN THINGS *to do for* FREE

1. Fly paper airplanes from the roof of a tall building . It's not too hard to find stacks of fliers but it you can't find any to use, raid a paper recycle bin or walk into a copy store and take some out of the garbage.
2. Go to clothes shops (especially thrift stores) and try on as many totally ridiculous outfits as you can before getting the boot.
3. Department stores are kinda neat too – they have everything you need for a comfortable home away from home. You can sit on the nice couches or beds and watch walls of TV sets, you can cover your friends in perfume samples, and best of all you can bring in most obnoxious tape, record or CD and try out the neato expensive stereo equipment."oops I didn't mean to put in on volume ten Mr. Salesperson". Whatever you do, don't ask for assistance – that takes all the fun out of it.
4. Go on a scavenger hunt. Instead of getting regular stuff like clothespins or buttons or whatever, send people off to get a bruise from a hick, a parking ticket, a story from an old drunk, food with mold on it, and challenging stuff like that.
5. Go to a supermarket and load up a full cart of stuff you wish you had money to buy. In my younger days I just abandoned the full cart but now I have more sympathy for store workers so I put the stuff back. Maybe not in exactly the right place, but who understands how those places are organized anyway?
6. Hell, you might as well rearrange the whole supermarket while you're at it. Put a parsnip in with the apples and some dog food in the chili section. Endless hours of fun you can have while making shopping an adventure for others! You can also make fake labels reading "rotting poison meat" or "growling fungus" and put them over those plain looking cans of pork & beans.
7. Walk down the street and say "hi" to everyone, and check out some pretty strange reactions. Little you can do will shock people as much as just being friendly to them.
8. Go through the dumpster of any one-hour photo developing place. You may have to wade through old coffee grounds and unidentifiable fluids, but hey-it's worth it!! Looking through the dumpster pix will keep you busy for hours..."hmmm, what is she doing to him with those pliers?" "Wow , I wonder if he's passed out or dead" or the ever-popular "Why would anybody take a photo of that?" If you need to kill more time you can try to make stories to go with the pictures, or you can combine them and make very strange collages. They make real good confetti.
9. Explore. Take a wrong turn. Go the opposite direction that you usually go or jump on a random bus. If you're already familiar with the streets, try inside the buildings. If you are already familiar with the insides, try above – rooftops and catwalks. Already done the roofs? Try underneath it – sewers and drainage ditches and bart tracks.
10. Hang out at the nearest auto-wrecking junk yard, take old bumper stickers and hood ornaments, and appreciate the neato post-apocolyptic beyond-thunderdome atmosphere.
11. Go to the mall and find people doing surveys or product tests. Some times you can get to see free clips of movies, get free food, and some times even get paid. If you can't find any survey dudes and you are bored you can boost your ego by making fun of peons.
12. There's a bunch of different things you can do for fun in an airport. First, use the white courtesy phone and page someone famous and then watch all the people glance around sheepishly. Then walk around with a friend babbling complete nonsense as people passing by try to figure out what language you're speaking. Tired? Take a rest, but make sure you do it in a corner and look as sullen as possible. Wear sunglasses if you have any. If there are a few of you, people will start asking "Are you rockstars? Are you a band?"... really, I'm not kidding.
13. Libraries have a lot more than books, many (like Moffitt at U.C.B.) have listening/screening rooms where you can watch videos or listen to tapes & records. You don't even need a library card cuz you don't need to leave the building! There's an incredible amount of stuff to choose from – educational and entertaining. As far as I know, you can even bring in your own videos, tapes and records in-but I'm not positive. A lot of libraries (like Berk. Main) have typewriters you can use for free... Maybe not in the best shape, but free is free. While there you can check out a few paintings from their large supply, and you might even want to (gasp!) check out a book.
24. Go down by the freeway where hitch-hikers would be, hold up signs like "Angola" or "Burma" and get your thumb out. You're sure to brighten someones's otherwise stressful day. O.K., so maybe it's it a dumb idea, but while you're down there you can find some cool spots under the freeway. If you've got food, it's a nice place for a picnic. (We don't have an address for Cometbus, but you can get it through Lookout Records, PO Box 11374, Berkeley, CA 94701)

TEA

Ask for hot water and always bring your own tea (especially if you like herb teas in hemp bags). This won't work in cheapskate restaurants like Canter's of course (who actually have the nerve to charge for hot water!), or in England (says Mick). (Darby)

TELEPHONES

PHONE FRAUD #1: This works with almost every pay phone, except the really lame ones owned by Comm Systems. Want to make a local call but don't want to waste your change? Alls you need is a paper clip. First, unbend the paper clip so that it's almost straight. Next, stick one end into the keyhole located in the middle of the silver plate under the pushbuttons. Make sure the end is hitting dead center in the keyhole. All right now, stick the other end of the paper clip into one of the tiny holes in the mouthpiece of the receiver. The hole you're looking for is usually in the top row, but this varies from phone to phone. Keep plugging away if necessary. The result you're looking for is a crackling sound followed by the dial tone. After you hear the crackling, dial your number. This works for local calls only, but hey! It's free!! (Kerin)

PHONE FRAUD #2: This ensures you of free phone calls anywhere, though luck and timing are required. Here's the scam: The minute you see someone using a phone card (if they don't have it out, you'll know due to the extraordinary amount of numbers they will punch in), plant yourself in their general vicinity. As soon as they hang up the phone, (make sure they're not around to see this) pick up the receiver. You should hear nothing on the line (if you hear a dial tone, forget it – you're too late). Hit the # sign and when a recording comes on saying "Please dial the number you wish now". You know you've reached paydirt, so call Paris, England, Bulgaria, anywhere you want. HELPFUL HINT: If for some reason, when you pick up the receiver, an operator comes on the line, just tell him/her you want to place *another* call. She/he should only ask for the telephone number, not the card number. Then yak to your heart's content. (Kerin) *Note: Tell the person you are calling what you are doing! When at boarding school, which had students from all over the world, a few of us got busted for using calling card numbers. What happened was that the phone company called the people who received these calls we made with the calling card numbers and finally got some names out of them. Considering everything else that happened at that school it wasn't a big deal, though it was weird when we were sent home after being suspended and saw articles on the story in the major papers. It ended up that we spent $250,000 on that scam – and we weren't even trying! (Darby)*

If you're using a Pacific Bell pay phone, want to give someone a very short message and don't want to pay for the call, try this: make a collect call and in the space they give you to record your name you can instead say whatever it is you want to say. You only have enough time to say things like "I'm coming over right now" if you talk really fast. (And make sure the other person knows not to accept the call). (Annabelle and Ethan)

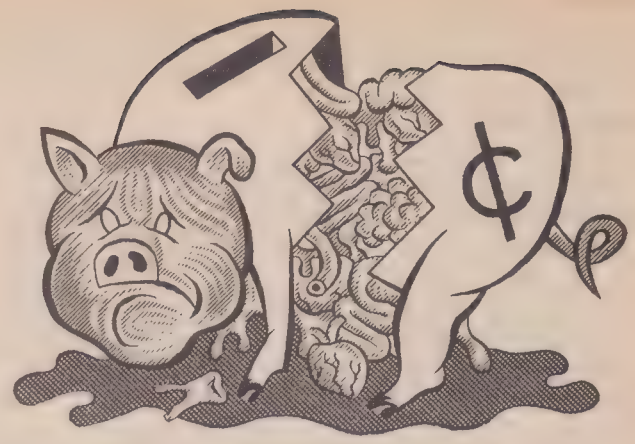
I know this may sound weird but I guess if you were really desperate to make a phone call, had no money *and* were near a freeway you could use the Call Box. Sometimes the operator will call the number you give them and pass on a message, other times they will connect you with the number. Just beware of retarded freeway drivers. (Darby)

TIGHTWAD GAZETTE

This is a magazine put out by a family of six, with twins on the way who live on $31,000 per year. It's $12 for 12 issues, and you can get your money back at any time if you aren't finding the tips helpful. Write: Tightwad Gazette, Leeds, Maine 04263. (Abby Adams)

TOILET PAPER

Stealing toilet paper has a certain poetic quality to it. Why not come away from the experience with more rather than less? When I went to Berkeley, paper snatching was such a widespread practice, between the students and the homeless, there were those who resorted to following around the maintenance trucks to try and learn their schedule. Rumor had it that the administration buildings had a much higher quality roll than the faculty and student buildings, but a public outcry soon remedied the discrepancy. All you need is an oversize purse or a backpack and you're in business. Try to frequent restaurants and businesses which still use the same old-fashioned toilet paper which you use in your home, not those huge rolls as big as a tire (Convention Center), or icky little sheets (Denny's), or those evil rolls which lock the tube into the fixture so you can't take it. A certain coffee shop in the Hollywood area always has tons of extra rolls lying around in the stall, but I'm not telling where. Happy trails. (Mikki)



TOP RAMEN

The first time that I ever went shopping after I moved out from my folks I couldn't believe how cheap Top Ramen was. I came home and told my roommates that they were four for a dollar, and they looked at me kind of funny. "Yeah," one of them said, "why do you think everyone eats it?" I thought everyone ate it just because it's so good! Here's the approved, authentic punk rock recipe.

DARBY CRASH'S MOTHER'S SPINACH AND RAMEN

1 pkg frozen creamed spinach (Bird's Eye is good. $1.19)
2 pkgs Top Ramen ($. 50 each)
Cook the spinach according to pkg. directions. Cook both pkgs. of Ramen according to pkg. directions, but omit the seasoning packets! When the Ramen is cooked, drain the noodles and add the spinach. Yum! Serves 3-4. (Mikki & Jena)

Toss the flavor packet, substitute curry, and make anything you wish. (That way, you don't get any M.S.G.) (Ivy)

Ralph's markets carry this great imported brand of fresh Udon ramen noodles. The brand is CHIKARA, and you find it in the imported foods refrigerated section. They cost .65 cents a package and they are far superior to the dry '5-for-$1.00' variety that all of us have survived on at one time or another. The large, white noodles come vacuum sealed and contain the obligatory packet of seasoning. But don't just eat them alone – here's what you do: Fill saucepan with 1-1/2 to 2 cups water and spoonful of soy sauce. Bring to a boil. Add any combination of the following: celery (almost essential), chopped carrots, onions, scallions, garlic, chard, broccoli, or cabbage (you may need more water for a lot of vegetables). Lower heat, cover and simmer for 5 minutes, or until vegetables are slightly tender (not soft). Add Udon noodles and season packet. Let simmer for another minute. Sprinkle dried seaweed (sort of expensive) or sesame seeds over and serve. This is a great way to utilize all the odds and ends in the fridge when you're down to a couple of small carrots, celery ends and half an onion. (Butch)

TOP TON KAU KAI: Top ramen noodles (cook first, rinse in cold water, set aside). Simmer: 1/2 c. jelly fungus (crumbled), 1/2 c. straw mushrooms, 1/2 stalk lemon grass cut in 1/4 in. pieces, Optional: 1/4 t. black tea, 1 T. fresh ginger, 2 T. lemon Juice, Salt and Pepper, Flavor packet, Cayenne pepper to taste, 1 c. coconut milk, water as directed, add: diced chicken, tofu, scrambled egg, vegetables, etc...), Cook and drain noodles before adding soup part. Simmer soup to extract spice flavors 10 mins. Add noodles. (Abbie)

(Note: I don't understand why everyone uses Top Ramen. The things are gross and what's the big deal with just buying a box of Spaghetti or pasta (which is about the same price for what you get). I think Top Ramen recipes don't belong in the broke issue but belong instead in the lazy issue... except for Abbie & Butch's demented gourmet Top Ramen recipes of course. I know when I'm broke I've always got lots of dried seaweed, coconut milk and jelly fungus lying around the kitchen. –Darby)

UMBRELLAS

ANOTHER "DON'T TRY THIS" TIP: When in London I was out to get a free umbrella. Well, actually being an unconscious newly initiated vegetarian I wanted a leather jacket but this twisted punk guy who promised to get me one (who knows why) was having no luck that night. SO off we went to get my new umbrella (the cool long cane-style umbrella NOT the cheesy compact one) and a few minutes later I had one (which I loved dearly). Then, on the way back to the bar where my friend was waiting for me, about five mod-looking guys jumped the punk guy and beat the living **** out of him; knocking him onto the ground, kicking him in the stomach, then in the face. One of the mods yelled "this is for the 'ole one two" while kicking him and flashes of Clockwork Orange ran rampant through my disturbed little head. I screamed, trying to figure out how I could stop them with my new umbrella, ultimately fearful and just plain chicken. When the punk guy didn't move anymore the mods left and he was carted off somewhere. (The ultimate *thieving* question "Was it worth it?" – I ended up losing my umbrella anyway.). (Darby)

VENDING MACHINES

NEWSPAPERS: Usually you can get one of the rattletrap machines to stand and deliver by simply yanking on the handle REALLY HARD about ten times. Small change will often tinkle forth. These units are made like your first sheet metal project in Junior High and are not up to the strain. USA Today machines are a bit tougher but try them first- if you only just render them inoperable you will be doing the world a great service. And if you can't harm the machine in any way, then just bum a quarter from a passer-by, open the thing, get the whole stack of papers and take them to the recyclers. (Butch)

Pour water down the change receptacle of a coke machine and money and coke will spew forth. (Damon)

WOOD

WOOD, YOU BE MINE?: Scrounge from alleys, behind buildings, construction sites and use for building stuff. (Wild Don)

WRITING PAPER

Instead of spending money on paper and sacrificing even more forestlands, grab a handful of leftover flyers the next time you go to a show. They're generally one sided, so you can write on the other without guilt or remorse. (Kerin)

We really hope you enjoyed our Encyclopedia of "Broke." A lot of time and painstaking effort went into trying to supply you (our cherished readers) with information we thought you should have at your fingertips. Now if you found any joy, laughter, money saving ideas perhaps, we think it would be just swell of you (our most cherished readers) to send a few bucks our way. I can assure you that indeed we can use it. Though we love supplying everyone in Southern California with a free copy of BEN IS DEAD unfortunately it does cost us money to do. Subscriptions are $2 per issue... better yet $10 for six issues... (Note: the magazines are sent out Bulk Mail and take two to four weeks. If you'd like yours sent first class add $1 per issue. If you have a subscription and moved please send us your new address as Bulk Mail is not forwarded). Thank You.

There are two literary maladies – writers cramp and swelled head. –Coulson Hernahan (1858-1943)

Finally!

BEN IS DEAD T-SHIRTS

artwork by Justin Forbes

(image on white t-shirt)

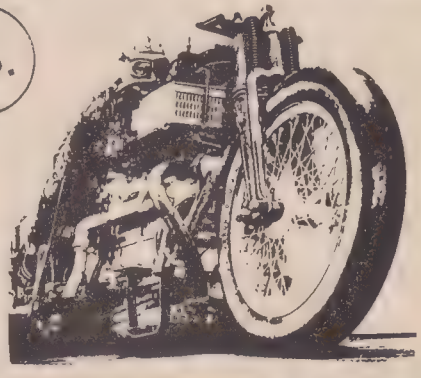
To get yours send $10 P.P.D. to BEN IS DEAD MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 3166, Hollywood, CA, 90028

Magnatone products

presents

Slug

7" E.P.



MAGNATONE PRODUCTS POST OFFICE BOX 2576

EL SEGUNDO CALIFORNIA 90245

Slug (a big joke and one of the worst bands I've ever seen. C'mon let's get pretentious and make noise. Wow.)

Robert Alatorre (Yes my real name. Yes, I'm in an L.A. band).

HOW TO RUN A RECORD LABEL
without going broke?
INTERVIEW WITH LONG GONE JOHN OF SYMPATHY AND LEE & ZEBRA OF DIONYSUS

photo by Annabelle Port

(L TO R) JOHN, ZEBRA AND LEE

INTERVIEW BY DARBY

I guess the title of this is how to do a record label without going broke.

LEE: Well, you've got the wrong people.

Then maybe we should change that to how to do a record label and survive?

LEE: Red (Zebra with her new red hair color) over there has been living off of this for a while now. She hasn't had a regular fucking job for almost three years.

How come you get to live off of it and he doesn't?

ZEBRA: I have to run the mailorder, and that is an all day thing.

LEE: But after work I'll go in and I'll continue working until morning.

How about you, John? Is it surviving, or not going broke?

LONG GONE JOHN: I would say it is making enough money to sustain myself and to put out the next batch of records, and not too much more than that. I'm relatively happy to succeed at that level. My aspirations are not big, I don't have big expectations.

Big expectations of the label?

JOHN: I'm happy selling modest amounts of records. I'm very successful in doing things on a small level.

What got you involved with it in the first place?

JOHN: Well, it was a real accidental situation where friends of mine, the LAZY COWGIRLS, wanted to do a record. They had a live show from Santa Barbara that they wanted to put out. Somebody had committed to doing it and then sort of bailed on it. I'd been expressing interest in it all along, like wondering, 'When's it gonna come out?' Then when it appeared that it wasn't going to happen, I said that I would be interested in doing it, and that's exactly what I did. Then JEFF DAHL had a very similar situation and since it had gone fairly smooth with the Cowgirls thing I just said I'd do it. So I did and it seemed like I was on my way to doing a record label.

How did you guys get started? (to Lee and Zebra)

LEE: Oh I was always playing with tape machines from the time I was a kid and I was in a bunch of bands in Tucson in the late 70s. I got a job in this record store and it got me heavily involved in this local thing. I was in three bands and I was at every show every weekend. There was a really cool, strong local scene going on. So a friend of mine and myself decided to do some recording and decided to release a cassette and see if I could sell it at the store. So people could actually pick up music by the bands that they liked to go see on weekends and hear it in the car or whatever. We put out two tapes and they sold pretty good and I was involved in buying records for this store because I managed it so I had to deal with these distributors, like Rough Trade and Greenworld and all those other places. So these people actually ordered some tapes from me, our little local cassette sold out of town, so that's how it pretty much started. I ended up putting out about fifteen tapes on that label. We called it Iconoclast International, just to break with tradition.

Did you guys do it together?

ZEBRA: It was before he met me.

LEE: It was eleven years ago.

JOHN: Pre-Z.

LEE: Way pre-Z. She probably was still in elementary school when that was going on. We had this equipment laying around the band house. I practiced at the mixing board, the four track machine. We did all the recording ourselves. We borrowed stacks of cassette machines from friends. We had a wall of all my friends' cassette machines and we would sit there and duplicate cassettes, it was pretty funny... Then when I came to LA I met Greg from Bomp Records and he seemed to like what I was doing with the tape label. So he told me one day "I'm going to let you start your own label. I'm going to let you use all my credit." So, I put out two albums and two singles and that's what started us on our way. And then we severed with Bomp. That was really friendly and we joined up with Mordam in 1984.

How was it for you to get distribution? Were those (connections) already in your hand when you started or was that a hard process?

JOHN: Distribution is without a doubt the biggest nightmare of the whole story. The people are very willing to take your product and they're also very willing to sell it and collect the money, but what they are unwilling to do is pay you your percentage. They want to keep everything.

LEE: Or, what they're willing to do is keep your stuff in their warehouse, sell two copies of it and not pay you and not tell you they didn't sell any of it. Then six or nine months to a year later they return a whole box of your stuff to you.

Which, by that time, could be a collector's item.

LEE: That happens.

JOHN: Meanwhile you've pressed more records to accommodate somebody who is serious. I've done something that's pretty unique in that I've set up a no return policy. I've taken the chance of allowing a distributor to do that to me away from them. If they want my records they're going only one way.

Is that hard? Have you lost a lot of business because of that?

JOHN: Well I would say that I've not achieved what I could achieve. But then, what have I really lost except dealing with schmucks anyway?

So which distributors are the ones that you can deal with?

JOHN: Both me and Lee have essentially one distributor and then she (Ruth Schwartz of Mordam) in turn sells to the rest of the distributors.

What kind of cut does Mordam take?

JOHN: We set the prices and they just make 15% for handling the account, receiving payment, and turning around and paying us. We have essentially hired them to become our sales department and for that she gets 15%. And I couldn't be happier than I am with Mordam. I think they're absolutely wonderful. They're honest which is such a rarity to begin with and I think they're genuinely concerned about the whole thing.

Do you do mail order for Sympathy?

JOHN: I'm trying to set that up, because if people write and say "We're interested in this record, but we can't get it", and if they can't get it from me that's pretty sad. So I do have mail order. It doesn't amount to a great deal, but again, it's like a building process. I expect it to continue to get better.

Did you say Mordam does your distribution in Europe?

LEE: Yeah. God, I don't know if I should talk about my deals.

JOHN: See that's the difference between you and me. Mordam doesn't solely represent you. You've carried on deals....

LEE: I've had business dealings with some distributors before I went with Mordam and also I do heavy trade for my mail order. So I sell to some distributors but I take it in trade and that is one way to make sure you get paid. You take merchandise and sell it. It's perfect because that's how we can make such a large mail order catalog. In fact this next one is going to have (at least) 700 different singles.

How about sending out promo records?
JOHN: I thought about this today. I thought about one of the big industry magazines called Rockpool. Did you see that new issue?
LEE: No
JOHN: It's all about independents. Well I'm looking through this thing and I'm thinking to myself that 90% of these people are not what I would consider to be an independent label at all. I mean they're funded by major labels, they're distributed by major labels, and I don't even think they're independent. I mean I'm truly independent, these guys (Dionysus) are truly independent.
LEE: The words alternative and independent have been really twisted around in the last few years. I think maybe because of the major labels co-opting these big indies and getting a choke hold on what was the independent scene. For instance, when we put out our first two albums in 1984, we charted very high on the college charts with these records. We were a dinky little label too. But nowadays, if you picked up most of your college play lists, there are so many major labels. We had a really bad time with radio stations and we ended up cutting most of them out, but now we are getting back into this thing where by we're learning which ones, and they are out there, are playing the independents. Luckily we have KXLU out here which is really good about it.
You can even hear that they are playing it.
LEE: If you compare what KXLU is playing to what you see on other play lists, it's really incredible. The whole term alternative is just like what the term new-wave became twelve years ago.
So the big expense, all the promo records that you have to send out, has that become a hassle?
JOHN: We have a very different outlook to that as well. My promo list is virtually nonexistent. I used to treat it a little bit differently and I know that radio stations are eager to receive the stuff. I know they're willing to play it, but as far as I'm concerned, it's never translated into increased sales and I have to take all those things into consideration. Last year, I spent close to $4,000.00 on postage giving things away. It does nothing to bring an extra dime into anyone of the bands' pockets nor to mine. So I mean, I have to see something in return, I really do. I'm more concerned about seeing things show up in print, seeing that periodicals and magazines receive records more so than radio stations. Not to say that I don't service at all but it's very very limited and I'll do less as it goes along.
Really, so do you think people are buying the records based on the name [Sympathy].
LEE: In John's case, he's got a buzz going on with his label.
JOHN: I wouldn't like to think that people bought them for that reason. I mean, that's all right but I like to think that people aren't just chic in that manner. I'm a record collector. I've been a record collector the biggest part of my life and I've put all of that into what I do. I buy records all the time that I've never heard and I don't know what they are. I think that is a big part of it. This image I've been able to portray through ads and things, somehow there's an indication of what this is about. There's not like a specific sound that I'm doing obviously, because I've done everything from wigged out country music to the biggest loud of noise crap there is.
Do bands get disappointed if they feel like they're not getting their stuff to the radio stations or to the magazines?
JOHN: Well, I don't want to say that I don't do it. I'm just saying that I'm extremely selective about what I do do. I mean, I can point out labels run by friends of mine who do massive mailings and the end result is that they are not selling anything better than what I'm selling anyway. So you tell me who is right and who is wrong. I don't know. I mean if you want to spend ten times more money to achieve the same end result I would have to say you're foolish.
Do you think it pays off for you guys?
LEE: I don't know. Everybody has a different philosophy about it. We've been getting back into sending stuff out. At the very beginning we would send over 300 promos out, that was a little over 200 radio stations. We ended up cutting that down to about 25 radio stations. Now we're adding more to the list. And it helps in situations, like for me it is really important that places get the records that I'm on because I want people to know who our band is when we tour.
So I'd imagine every band would want that too.
LEE: I think so.
JOHN: He has got a different stake in this as well. He is also in a band that he is trying to push and sell. So he would be foolish not to do everything he could to achieve the same result. Where as with me, I've done well over 100 records and there's only five or six bands who have done things for me a second time. Most of what I'm involved in is one off deals with people. I'm doing a favor for these people getting their record out and they are doing a favor for me by giving it to me and it is kinda a springboard situation.
Yeah they may not depend on it so much, because most of them are on another label already.
JOHN: Ultimately seeing a review in print is a little bit more exciting than hearing it on the radio. What do you think? That thing on the radio is only three minutes whereas print is there for eternity.
I know, but you're never really sure how they are reviewing it. So often I don't buy something after reading a review. I buy it a lot of times after hearing it.
JOHN: Well, it's ultimately only one person's opinion so...
LEE: Everybody has different philosophies and devotions. Some people think print's no good just radio. Some people think radio's good not print. Some people think you gotta do both. Some people think all you have to do is advertise. Some people don't like to advertise. I think it all depends on your past experiences.
How many do you print when you do a single?
JOHN: Well it really varies as little as 1000 and as many as 3000. I have a garage right now full of extra sleeves and extra labels, so now I'm being a little more cautious about it.
LEE: We have the same thing. We have a front porch full of covers
Because you guys print extra? Explain how that process works.
LEE: It's a lot easier and cheaper to print extra covers and labels in case you need to repress the record, because the prices on the printing drop drastically after 1000. If you only make a 1000 covers and if you need to repress 300 more records, then you gotta print a minimum of 500 to 1000 new paper parts and the price is ridiculous.
So you guys kinda gamble, I mean as far as "I hope it gets a repress".
LEE: I like going with 2000 paper parts. This is a number I have chosen to work with as far as paper parts are concerned.
So you do 2000 even if you're doing 1000 records? And if you don't repress you can flip it inside out and print it on the other side.
LEE: We've done that once before. We took some extra album covers and took them to a paper recycler.
I was just thinking of that Artfag album... They flipped it inside out, reglued it together, and then spray painted their name on it.
LEE: Oh yeah. That was great.
Do you guys ever feel like you are in competition with each other or...
JOHN: I don't think we really are. We've been involved in some bands, even both doing the same things, but ultimately Lee has been at it a lot longer than I have. I think he's had many years establishing the audience he has. I imagine they (our labels) cross somewhere along the way, but I think they are two different things. What do you think Lee?
LEE: I don't think there is any competition but there are times when bands want to do something with him and they want to do something with me, and then there is a little problem in that. We can't put out the same band at the same time cause we go through the same distributor.
JOHN: That's the problem.
How many are you putting out? What kind of schedule are you on?
JOHN: I have no schedule. I just do things... for the time I've been a label it probably works out to about one record a week in 2 1/2 years
Oh God.
LEE: The way I do it, which makes it a lot easier, is I try to do things in groups. I'll try to master two, three, four records at the same time. I'll try to do the artwork at the same so I can turn everything in at the same time and run all the errands at the same time with two projects. And when you get the records you promote them at the same time and advertise them at the same time.
One thing that you (John) were telling me that I thought was really funny was about the HOLE 7".
JOHN: Oh how Courtney was calling me up? See that's something that turned out to be really great. I mean Courtney was very persistent. She used to call me all the time and say "When are we going to do this thing? Are you going to be the cool label in the '90s? And if you are you have to do this Hole record" and I just literally loved her from talking to her on the phone. She was very funny... everything about her I liked. I made the agreement to do this thing with her finally without ever seeing the band – with a lot of people telling me whatever you do don't get involved with them. And I've said it before, they are like the most gracious, easygoing people I've dealt with.
How about limited pressing and limited editions? What do you guys think about that stuff?
LEE: I'll tell you what, I'll limit something for the sheer reason that I think it can only sell a certain amount. I don't limit anything to make it the sensational thing – like you'd better grab these few copies while they are here. I do all my pressing the same. They all have the same covers, they'll all be on colored vinyl. A long time ago, I think seven out of our first ten singles, we did do a thing where we'd make 300 of them on colored vinyl.
And now colored vinyl doesn't seem as special since so many people do it?
ZEBRA: Yeah. Actually, back then colored vinyl was special even to us. It was like, 300 colored vinyl yeah! You know, get it!
You give the bands on your label a certain amount of their records and that's how you pay them – in trade. Let's bring that up.
LEE: Yeah that's how I'll do it. I'll give a band a certain amount of records and they can sell them at shows.
Like a hundred?
LEE: It depends.
And is that how you deal with the bands also?
JOHN: In a lot of instances I'm giving bands money to record.
LEE doesn't do that for the most part. Right?
LEE: Well except with albums. When it comes to albums we always pay for the recording sessions.
JOHN: After doing those first few records I asked myself, 'well am I really going to do this thing? How long can I continue to get things of any merit for free?' So it got to a point where I'd made some money and I thought that to keep this thing going I'd have to give people money to start doing these things. For the most part, having given people money, 500 bucks to record a single, giving them records, there is no way they are losing out on anything. Unless I'm selling a shit load of fucking records.
LEE: I find with the singles, especially with the newer bands, a lot of the bands appreciate getting something out. Seeing their name in my ads nice and bold. And getting the promo

CONTACT LIST

Listed below are the names, addresses and phone numbers of companies that provide services necessary for the manufacter and distribution of independent press and music. Also included is pricing information and comments from individuals who have utlized their services. We hope this information may be useful as a starting point—maybe saving you some telephone calls *and dollars!* Obviously prices may fluctuate, as of course may service and quality. Some of these companies do package deals, different people may get different prices, etc.

Also: After our interview John of Sympathy for the Record Industry, and Lee and Zebra of Dionysus added on some information to this list. We all got carried away and though Lee didn't bad-mouth too much, John was happy to let us print all of his smart-ass comments, and so we did. Clearly some of them are more for humor than reference. (You should call all of these companies yourself for a better idea... BEWARE: most of these #'s were given to me by a dyslexic).

PRESSING

(LP'S, 7'S)

ALBERTI RECORD MFG. CO.
312 Monterey Pass Road, Monterey Park, CA 91754
(213) 283-5446 (818)282-5181
COMMENTS: Just a step into their offices and you will see most of your favorite underground/punk labels on their walls. Many labels are using this company as currently they are cheaply priced, have good quality and service, as well as being masters of colored vinyl.
PRICE: competitive

ERICA
Bellflower, CA • (213)804-1539
COMMENTS: "Never used them... too spaced out." –Al Flipside. "Sub Pop uses these guys but doesn't pay the bills." –John
PRICE: Call Sub Pop

RAINBOW
Santa Monica, CA • (213) 829-0355
COMMENTS: slow
PRICE: Competitive, call for quote.

BILL SMITH
127 Penn, El Segundo, CA • (213) 322-6386
COMMENTS: noisy vinyl; hold (black) record up to light and you can see through it.

PETE KORICH
(213) 462-0088
COMMENTS: Did early Rolling Stones (Satisfaction).

(CD'S)

AMERICAN HELIX
Pennsylvania • 1 (800) 525-6575
COMMENTS: CDs only
PRICE: competitive

MASTERING

K-DISK
Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA • (213) 466-1323
COMMENTS: good quality. "I notice the difference... good for EQ work... I like mine punchy as hell." –Lee, Dionysus. "It's not worth the extra money... fancy waiting room and Sunset Blvd. location... When they're busy they send their stuff to Richard Simpson and still charge KDISK prices... I like mine to sound like crap." –John, SFTRI.
SAMPLE PRICE: More expensive, call for quote.

RICHARD SIMPSON
(213) 462-0088
SAMPLE PRICE: cheap, call for a quote

HOWARD VALENTINE
Hollywood, CA
(213) 464-888

PRINTING LP/7" SLEEVES

G&M (labels, Jcards, 7" sleeves)
Hollywood, CA
(213) 466-1307
COMMENTS: Good service & coffee.

MODERN
Burbank, CA
COMMENTS: cheapest; slow; not good quality; many labels had problems with them. (They may have just gone out of business).

STOUGHTON PRINTING
City of Industry • (213) 686-2753
COMMENTS: More expensive, good quality. "Better service and blow jobs... the Stoughton staff is hard to beat." –John.

VILLE PLATTE
120 E. Cypress, P.O. Box Drawer 10, Ville Platte, Louisianna 70586
(318) 363-2104
COMMENTS: One time wouldn't print the cover of industrial band SLEEP CHAMBER. (article in Sound Choice #16, Winter 1991) Ville Platte basically said they couldn't "continue to do this kind of job anymore." Adding that, "We have had complaints from some of our customers walking in and seeing the graphics that we have been printing
PRICE: Competitive

PRINTING MAGAZINES & BOOKS

ANDREWS PRINTING
2141 Bixby, Lakewood, CA
(213)636-9149
comments: average to above average prices; newsprint; previous B.I.D./current Flipside printers, doesn't censor.

AFM
3136 Industrial Blvd. West Sacramento Ca 95691 • (916) 372-2799
COMMENTS: Prints Last Gasp's Cherry Cherry (porno comics).

BOYD PRINTING
49 Sheraton Ave. Albany, New York 12210
comments: wouldn't print nude bodies, shitty quality, expensive.

CHINA TIMES PRINTING
(818)576-7006 (Peter)
COMMENTS: cheap prices, good quality and service; newsprint; prints B.I.D., the AMOK fourth dispatch and LA X-press, obviously doesn't censor.

GLENDALE ROTERY
Glendale, CA • (213)245-1825
COMMENTS: poor service; below average quality. Flipside says quality varies.
PRICE: Cheap.

GRIFFIN PRINTING
1801 9th St. Sacramento, CA 95814-7084 • 1 (800) 448-3511
COMMENTS: really good quality, no problems... good service
PRICE: competitive

MALLOY
(313) 665-6113
COMMENTS: might print something that doesn't have nude bodies in it, that doesn't ave the word fuck in it, and doesn't talk about abortion rights and stays away from the subject of homosexuality. These people make a lot of money from printing bibles. The are cheap, good quality.

NEWS TYPE SERVICE
Glendale, CA
COMMENTS: average to above average prices; previous B.I.D. printers; prints some religious papers so censors in order to protect themselves.

RIO HONDO VALLEY PRINTERS
Santa Fe Springs, CA • (213) 693-2781
Comments: Poor quality, censored penis in Flipside. (Was possibly bought out, maybe new rules)
Price: Cheap

DISTRIBUTING

(Audio Recordings)

This is a small list of the better (mostly smaller) distributors (we think they're the ones that pay). Lee (Dionysus) says: bigger distributors eat small indie labels alive... and suggest that small indies stay with small indie distributors. Tim of Maximum Rock 'N Roll commented that 'good' & 'distributors' is a contradiction of terms.

ARMADILLO (magazines in LA, San Bernadino) – 821-1650.

BLACKLIST MAILORDER – 181 Shipley St. SF, CA 94107. (415)957-9390

CARGO RECORDS – 2243 N. Clybourn, Chicago, IL 60614. (312) 935-5683

DIONYSIS MAILORDER (will usually take 10 to 20 copies of independent releases on a 60 day consignment) – (818) 953-7428.

continued on page 55

that we do. The bands really enjoy that a lot. But as far as when we do LP projects though, we pay for the recording sessions usually and that comes out of royalties. We figure our royalties every six months. Some people have gotten a lot of money in royalties from us. Some people have gotten nothing.

Lots of blab about Aron's, Poobah's and the better record stores in LA.

JOHN: I think the coolest music going on in LA will never be recognized in LA.

LEE: That's the way it's always been. I mean you can go back to the '50s and '60s and all the coolest records from those eras were records that were completely obscure.

JOHN: I'll say LA, as far as sales, has gotta be the weakest point.

What is the best point?

JOHN: Anywhere. Probably places where people aren't jaded and don't have a million bands to choose from. People out in the Midwest you know. Everywhere but LA.

So JOHN, have you had any aspirations of playing in a band? (laughter)

JOHN: No I couldn't think of a worse profession in my life.

LEE: JOHN lied to me one time. He said that on his hundredth single he wanted to sing.

JOHN: Oh yeah.

LEE: I said "Hey, that's a great idea! Who are you gonna get to play on it?" But he was just pulling my leg.

JOHN: It was short lived. No, I couldn't think of anything more depressing than that. Because it's such a frustrating existence, the competition is so insane, and the rewards are virtually nil unless you are one in a thousand. And then even a band who succeeds has a very goddamn short life span. People have to do it because they love to do it and I think that if they're being realistic, they're admitting to themselves that it's the 'don't get rid of your day job' thing, you know what I mean? It's gotta be fun and man, the bands that are ever gonna make any money are very fun.

LEE: I don't have any aspirations of making money off of playing music. But, I've been real lucky in that I've always wanted to be involved in all aspects of music, so I've been able to pretty much make my living off of music, in one form or another. Either, with a combination of playing and putting out records, or selling records through mailorder.

This is one of Tomás' questions. Is there a level of quality or aesthetic that you won't go below? Quality versus quantity and cheapness?

JOHN: I wonder if he's saying, to what level won't I stoop? Well, I've done some things that are probably not in the best of taste, like the child molesters, and the naked fourteen year-old girl on the cover...

LEE: And swastikas on the label. (laughter)

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HOW TO GET AN INTERVIEW IN BEN IS DEAD

JOHN: That was kinda in the spirit of punk rock, know what I mean? I'm certainly not into child pornography or Nazi-ism as well, but for some reason it all made sense at the time. But it's good as well – I'm not exactly embarrassed.
LEE: We put out one thing in particular, one side of a live record was absolutely fucking atrocious.
Who was that?
LEE: MARSHMALLOW OVERCOAT. One side was good, the other side was just junk. And I think that was one of the times when my band was gonna go tour Europe and I just did this thing and it was with a group of other things and I just said 'Fuck it' and let it go through, and now I kinda regret...
It was atrocious how? The lyrics, the quality?
ZEBRA: It was like playing paper.
JOHN: I like being able to do anything I wanna do. That's part of doing these things on your own, whether I think anybody else cares or not. The only criteria is that I like it.
LEE: You've gotta have that kind of attitude when you're a small guy and you're putting yourself on the line, going into debt to put out a record. The bottom line is you've gotta fuckin like it if it's not something that you think is gonna do real well, because most likely it won't. You've gotta really have your heart into it...
What label covers are the cheapest? Like what kind of stock paper or color?
LEE: Everything you can do cheaper is an opportunity that you'll eventually make money. But I've decided that I would much rather have something that looks good and cultivate my label. Those things are gonna be around a lot longer than an extra 50¢ is gonna be around. You know what I mean?
Lots of blab about record sleeves and plastic covers. Darby takes out the Independent Project record covers and we're all impressed.
And what about CDs? Do you want to say something about...
LEE: Well yeah. As far as it goes for Dionysus and the labels we're starting up everything we do that is an album project is gonna be CD from now on. Although we're still gonna do vinyl on some of the others.
Do you think you have sold any less than what you were selling before CDs came along?
LEE: Album wise, it probably has hurt us in the fact that many stores that used to take our stuff don't because they're not taking records. Like, we used to get distribution... you used to be able to find my records in like Wherehouse or Tower and not anymore because they're stocking mostly CDs but the way we're gonna deal with that is we're gonna put CDs out.
And how about you? (to John)
JOHN: I love CDs. I think they are amazing. I really like them a lot. And the reason I'm working on my first CDs right now is that I was so disappointed, so disillusioned with vinyl. It sounds like crap and I'm tired of that.
So, it's quality?
JOHN: Well, I think it's fine if you have a band that just BBWWWAAAHHGGG and you can't hear all the crap, but the minute you have a band that does something besides that, that has momentum and dynamics, it just screams out for all these problems that are inherent in vinyl. They come right out and I hate it.
LEE: Unless you take real good care of your records and you have a real good stereo and a nice cartridge.
JOHN: I'm talking about brand new records. I'm not talking about the 50th trip on the turntable. I'm talking about brand new off the press they sound like crap. I hate it...
LEE: This guy puts out like 50 records a month and he's got a stereo that I wouldn't have owned when I was in Junior High School.
JOHN: I beg your pardon? I paid $100 for my stereo 12 years ago.

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime"—Aristotle

photo: Wild DON.

SLUTS AND STEALING

SHOPLIFTING WITH HELEN & MARK OF RETAIL SLUT

BY TY

Do you have a big problem with shoplifting?
Helen: Yeah, we have to hire more people to watch everybody all the time and we have to buy things like the video camera and the mirrors, the two way mirrors. I buy this stuff and have to raise the price on everything. For instance, somebody stole my sticker box in the old store. A whole box full of stickers. You know the stickers on the Anti-club sign? Those are stolen ones from my box. My stickers used to be 85¢, so I lost about $200 worth of stickers, so now they're 94¢ to make up the lost $200. Everybody's paying an extra 9¢ because of those evil punk rockers who stole my...
Mark: ...sticker box. Those trash rock punk rockers, like people into the Clash. They think "Oh my god! This is anarchy!" But that is not what the Clash is about. It's about cooperation which creates the ability to have anarchy. They have no responsibility: stupid little fucks.
H: So generally, I have to raise a couple of bucks here, and a couple of bucks there just to cover theft.
Hire extra people.
H: Yeah, we have to watch everybody, cause there are pros out there.
M: If somebody rips off something for $20, you have to spend $60 to make that money back.
H: If I've spent $10 on it, I don't lose $10 because of my operating costs, the rent, hiring people, etc. So actually I've lost $14.
How much do you lose monthly or yearly?
H: It's pretty hard to steal here, in the new store. I mean, we're really tight on security. I would say it used to be like $400 a month, but then we cracked down and got really good at watching people and bought a new camera. I'd say that now its about only $100 a month.
A hundred?
H: Yeah, well we caught so many people and I think the word got out. We busted them. In fact, if we catch anyone, we don't care. We'll call the cops.
M: So that helped a lot.
H: When you first open up a store, that's when everyone will try and rip you off.
M: They think I'm going to be really busy doing other things and not worry about shoplifting. But see, this is our 3rd move so we know... Don't print anything that would make us look vulnerable.
How long have you been in business?
H: 8 years.
8 years? That long, huh? So you pretty well know the ins and outs, all the little tricks.
H: Yeah, like we don't carry leather. We don't carry leather clothing because it's too much of a rip off draw. You can get such a good price for it on the market. So we stopped – and a lot of other people carry it.
You have a lot of unique items anyway, so I guess you don't...
H: Oh, that's one thing. Sometimes a person rips something off and I know exactly. They'll go to a club, I'll see them wearing it and its like "yeah, you ripped that off." There would only be three, you know. I'd have one, the store would have one and the other would be stolen and I'd know they had gotten it from me.
(darby adds a few question on to the interview)
What I wanted to ask you is if you guys ever shoplifted?
Helen: I've never in my whole life ever ever shoplifted.
Really! (completely amazed)... Also, my friend was telling me that she used to work in retail stores and she got out of it not because you don't make a lot of money but because of the attitude of the people who run the stores toward the employees in reference to stealing.
Helen: I know that happened with Jet Rag. Yeah. Yeah, the bigger the place is... and it depends, if the owner is an asshole the employees are going to rip them off more.
Does it also depend on how much they pay? I mean if they are paying a lot are the employees more satisfied?
Helen: In retail you never get paid anything – you can't move up... Unless it's a really big store, like NANA you can move up and become a buyer or something. But the little stores never bring in enough money to pay people.
Have you had problems with that?...People stealing from you, I mean that work there.
Helen: Bruce used to steal from me all the time.
Who is Bruce?
Helen: Oh, he's the bassist from WALL OF VOODOO. He's a junkie, never trust a junkie, I swear.

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everything loose would fall into
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Frank Lloyd Wright

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SHOW & EVENT REVIEWS

Here you will find a bunch of opinions on a bunch of shows/events that you can take any way you like – which hopefully isn't too seriously. The writers of these reviews are of no all-knowing or above average standings. The fact that they are published should not give them any more validity then the (often contradictory) opinions of any person.

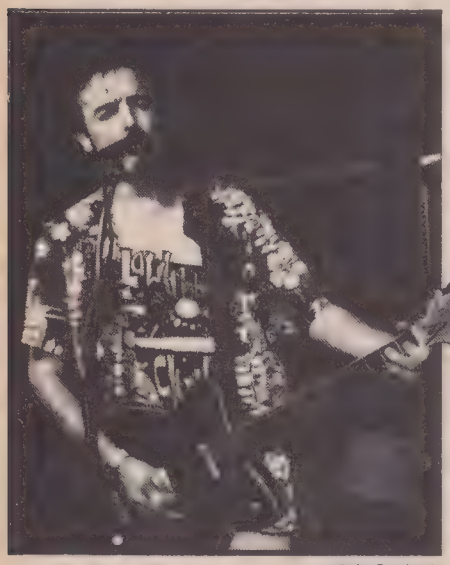

photo: Don Lewis

CLAWHAMMER

(An unsolicited review)

THE FIXTURES, SPOON • JABBERJAW, MARCH 15

it became apparent that this was to be a long night when it took SPOON about an hour and a half to set up. Oh, they didn't have anything elaborate. They just didn't seem prepared to deal with reality. In fact, if their singer were to lose weight and get a sex change, Spoon could pass off as DANZIG. This is just the type of slimy derivative band you see crawling out of the Hollywood strip every day. Spoon gave everyone their money's worth of entertainment (the show was free)! Blechh!

The FIXTURES come from a long line of drummer/singer bands. A plan pioneered by the likes of The CARPENTERS, GRAND FUNK RAILROAD, and the MENTORS, The Fixtures complimented their predecessors diligently. Former Eugene's regulars, the Fixtures raged through their set quite perversely. It was entertaining to witness the sheer emotion on the singer/drummer's face through each and every song. It was as emotionally charging as sticking hot needles in your eyes. The Fixtures proved to be the opposite of Spoon: they are an original, highly energetic band that has a future. YYYYYYYYYYYYEEEEEEEEAAHH!!!!! (PEC)

THE DWARVES • BOGARTS, MARCH 15

I actually saw one of the opening bands, but they were so lame they don't even deserve to have their name printed. Tonight, Bogart's was packed full of drunken folk, though I'm fairly sure most of them had no idea what the DWARVES are all about (except that the ad said Sub-Pop in it). The people that were hip to these slobs were ready and when they hit the stage it was complete mayhem. Blag was sporting a t-shirt, fishnet stockings, and hi-tops, and he spent a lot of time bending over to let everyone view his butthole. He Who Cannot Be Named (guitar) was wearing an adult-sized diaper and his mandatory mask. He spent much of his time falling down and played so hard, his knuckles were bleeding all over his guitar. Krk (from Flipside) was in rare form this evening, he had obviously ingested large amounds of some toxic alcohol product. Up front the crowd was going berzerk prompting Krk to throw his camera at the band whilst flipping them off. Fights with bouncers ensued and as The Dwarves played their last song, I saw Krk getting dragged by his neck out the back door by some linebacker. The crowd destroyed the drumset as The Dwarves ran for more beer. It was oh so punk rock. (Evan)

CLAWHAMMER, THE HUMPERS • THE GASLIGHT, APRIL 5

CLAWHAMMER was all energy, focused on lead singer/guitarist. While the band slammed through their set, he screamed out the lyrics, sweated profusely, and jumped around a lot: you know, rock n' roll. Dressed in that Hawaiian shirt, there was no stopping him. The energy level was so high that a fight almost broke out in the club, and beer was spraying around constantly. THE HUMPERS, with the thankless task of following Clawhammer, gave an admirable set of early punk/new wave rockers, but they couldn't match the manic intensity of the previous band. The Humpers would have been better as openers. (Wild Don)

JOE COLEMAN • LA LUZ DE JESUS, APRIL 5

Over a thousand people must have attended the opening of "Infernal Machine", JOE COLEMAN's painting exhibit. No, he didn't bite off the heads of live rats or explode himself as in previous escapades. On this night, he was quite pleasant, dressed in a nice suit and puffing cigar, calmly and civilly answering fans' questions, even consenting to be interviewed by a video production team.

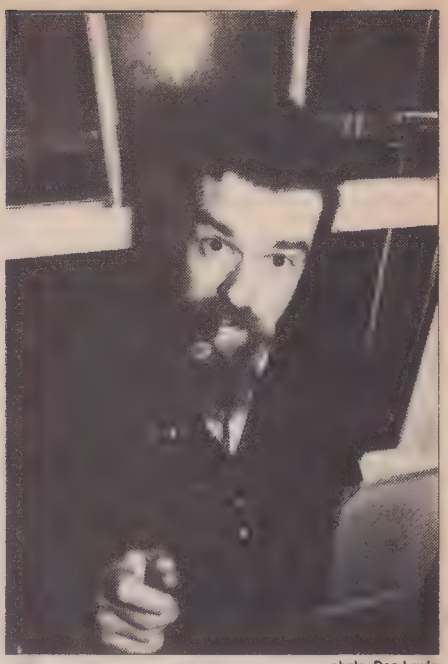

photo: Don Lewis

JOE COLEMAN

Meanwhile, the disturbing elements of his persona lay waiting in the paintings. Every picture was filled with people, mutated, mutilated and diseased in every possible way, including some creative combinations of defects on single individuals. One unforgettable image showed a doctor's waiting room. Among all the disgusting looking patients was a baby in its diseased mother's arms. The baby's eyes were fused into a large cross shaped cavity, kind of a super eye that perhaps couldn't see normally, but could see beyond the realm of normal eyes.

All of the paintings were relentlessly intense. I couldn't bear looking at more than a handful before whispering "Whew!" to myself and returning to the party. The gallery also has books of Joe's work. (Wild Don)

NERVOUS GENDER • HAMMERHEAD, APRIL 18

Hammerhead is an "industrial dance" club held on Thursdays at Que Sera, a lesbian bar in Long Beach. Nervous Gender was asked to play on short notice, so they had to quickly throw together a show, which was difficult because their programs had been stolen at their last gig and they had to reconstruct all their material from scratch. The resulting 25-

photo: Don Lewis

NERVOUS GENDER

Poverty has strange bedfellows. —Edward Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

minute set was short, but intense.

Does programmed music sound like a wimpy idea? Think again. Keyboardists Mike and Joe, with Gerardo confronting the audience with lyrics about all aspects of sexuality, spare nothing. This leaner, meaner, Nervous Gender would have sounded best pounding thru a more powerful PA, something the band has yet to find. Maybe at Al's in May? Not a chance.

photo: Don Lewis

HELLBILLIES

Even though they got enthusiastic hoots and hollers from the audience, the band decided not to encore with "Fat Cow". Why not? With lyrics like "Fat cow / moo moo / four teats / cow hips," the crowd might have listened with a sense of humor and loved it. Why not take a risk? (Wild Don)

3 WOMEN IN BLACK, YARD TRAUMA, RIOT ACT • GASLIGHT, APRIL 19

The first night of two for Dionysus bands, this one celebrated the release of YARD TRAUMA's new album; LOSE YOUR HEAD.

3 WOMEN IN BLACK was actually one woman and three men. Their music was generic rock n roll – which went in one ear and out the other, so I don't remember it. Yard Trauma went through their album beginning to end, and from this set it sounded like equal amounts of killer and filler. They sounded best when they stopped trying to be "new" and rang out with primitive barrechord energy. RIOT ACT closed the show, and the audience couldn't take their eyes off lead singer Carmen. Gathering at her feet while she played her body as well as guitar. Yeah, the music was pretty good, too. (Wild Don)

MUDWIMMIN • SHAMROCK, APRIL 20

One of the best shows I've been to all year was MUDWIMMIN at The Shamrock. I was quite happy to see a lot of people supporting them. When they played at Lectisternium a year or so ago, there weren't too many people, nor had the band progressed to their full musical potential. At this show I had noticed a major improvement in overall performance and tightness. The only thing I was disappointed with was that they didn't switch their instruments as much as I remembered. They did play some of my personal favorites: "Neanderthal" and "Wild Bill" and a bunch of new material. Don't be fooled by the all female lineup, this is not a foxcore-girl grunge band, no way! These girls aren't following any trends, they have a sound all their own. Next time they're playing in your town, I highly recommend seeing them. (Shelley Rewolf)

KILL CITY, THE ENEMIES, THE HELLBILLYS, FEARLESS LEADER • SHAMROCK, APRIL 20

Dionysus Night part II was wilder that the previous night. What caught me about KILL CITY was the lead singers downer, sleazy aura. She didn't care as she sank to the floor and bent all the way backwards, exposing herself. The music drove the message home. Next were THE ENEMIES, a "power trio" who weren't bad considering it was their first time on stage. Zebra on bass was right in there propelling the groove, while Lee wailed free-form on guitar. THE HELLBILLYS were what you'd expect: rockabilly with death overtones. They had a real cool-looking bass fiddle with a skull on top. The show closed with FEARLESS LEADER, who tried every trick in the book to outrage the audience. Gimmicks included smoke, wild makeup, mooning, food, huge guitars etc, etc. They left the club a mess of peanut butter, whipped cream, spam and other delights. I'll bet they can't top themselves next time. (Wild Don)

ETHYL MEATPLOW • AL'S BAR

It was underwear night at Al's Bar with the world famous ETHYL MEATPLOW leading the charge. This was the tightest and juiciest ETHYL I'd seen to date. All my friends were surprised to have butts in their faces (since Al's stage is butt-face level). Carla looked fabulous in a black bra and overalls, and John and Biff were STUDS. Lots of legs and arms and other things were flying all over the stage and WHAT IS THIS ABOUT A BLT? People new to the ETHYL experience quickly became fans and some songs were new to my ears. Sex appeal galore. Then I said goodbye to John, who looked very cute and we went to Long Beach. On the way out we saw Carla's new car. Thanks to Al's Bar for letting us all in! (Ethan, Ivy, Annabelle, Kerin, Evan, and Mikki–you try and guess who wrote which parts!) *(Sometimes I have no control over what goes on around here. –Darby)*

NO MEANS NO, NO MAN • C.W.N.S.

The last show we saw at the new Club With No Name was the BABES IN TOYLAND, HOLE, BULIMIA BANQUET, LOVE DOLLS and a couple of other "chick" bands which

photo: Shelly Rewolf

MUDWIMMIN

I can't recall. Anyway that show was really cool and I've always liked the open, 3-D space at the Probe, so with a bit less trepidation than before, we set out to see our favorite Canadian Alternative Tentacles band play their second show in LA that week. We missed the four opening bands, but got inside just in time to catch ROGER MILLER's set. Thrashhead from Flipside was there and gave us his rundown of the show up to that point: "AL SHARPTON'S HAIR was this funk band, then there was SWEET WATER, which I laughed all the way through because their lead singer looks like DONNY OSMOND, acts like MICK JAGGER, and sounds like IAN ASTBURY. And then this last band I don't even know the name of because they bored the shit out of me so I came up here. And you know what's really bad?..these bands will all probably get signed, that's the really funny part." NO MAN was pretty interesting, but the addition of a drum machine to their set is a vast step backwards from interesting live viewing. On the other hand Roger Miller has a new bass player which is a significant step forward from the kinda metal guitar wanking of the Lectisternium NO MAN show last year. The bass lines are pretty minimal and primitive, and freed Rog up to play much more focused and less noodle-y guitar riffs. Some songs are genuinely inspired and they even had some cool vocal harmonies. They need a drummer!

NO MEANS NO were... crucial! I was really surprised

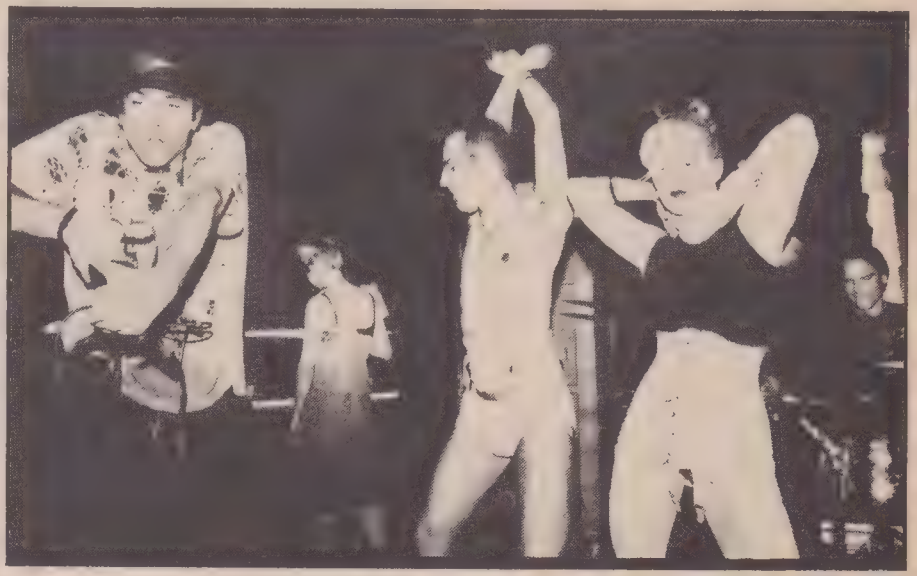

photo: Annabelle

I KNOW...*MORE* PHOTOS OF ETHYL MEATPLOW (BUT THEY'RE JUST SO PHOTOGENIC)

"Poverty is the stepmother of genius."—Josh Billings

by the large and loyal crowd that turned up on a Monday night to see these guys. Lots of genuine slamming and stomping around, as well as a lot of people mouthing every word. They didn't listen to the audience's requests to play "The Tower" or "Dad", but the songs they did offer were tight, intense, and refreshingly unique. It's nice to see these guys finally getting some attention. The drummer John (one of the tightest, hard hitting drummers around) and the bass player Rob are brothers and have been playing together for who knows how long. Andy plays really tasteful yet hardcore guitar riffs. You should definitely check these guys out next time they are in town.

Oh yeah, near as I could tell Dale is being pretty cool these days, and with No Show doing sound every week I'd recommend this club if there's a band playing you really like. My only gripe is the weird mixture of Hollywood glam/hair bands you have to tolerate while you wait for the band you came to see. But that's a small price to pay these days where you're lucky if really great bands can find any place to play at all! (Ethan & Annabelle)

photo: Don Lewis

THIS AIN'T SONIC YOUTH. TATTOO CONVENTION, HYATT REGENCY

SONIC YOUTH • WHISKY

NEIL YOUNG was sick so the LA show was cancelled and SONIC YOUTH picked up a Goldenvoice quickie at the ever punk rock Whisky. Since we only found out about the show at 6pm that night, there seemed no hope of getting into the WAY sold out show, but we went by anyway. Our friend Paul Grillo got a ticket for Annabelle and since we were in the middle of our usual March heat wave, it was much nicer outside anyway. There was no hope of getting two words into the Sold Out Golden ticket sellers, but after a short wait someone from CRAWLSPACE gave me his pass, which was ultra cool, so I did finally get in to see them. CRAWLSPACE sounded pretty cool, from the outside anyway. We'll have to check them out again. SONIC YOUTH were actually quite good. Not nearly as radical as their Bad Moon Rising, Evol, and Sister shows, (The SCREAM show a few years back was the best, I think, with all the RAMONES covers. They definitely had the Rock God Star Power at that show.) but still unique and interesting. There were a bunch of balding 30-something SST-erz slamming away in the front (they've gained a little more mass since those Starwood days). The crowd was a little more pleased than the booing Neil Young audience, and it was hot and sweaty. The new material is supposed to be "poppier", whatever that means, but it just seems a bit more boring than the older stuff. I guess we'd say the show was good but not GREAT. The "Guy from CLAWHAMMER" thought the first show was really great, so maybe the band was burned out or something. You definitely have to give these guys credit for originality and sticking with it for all these years. I just hope being insane, original, and radical doesn't become routine and repetitive for them. Check 'em out next time, if you can afford the tickets. (EthAbelle)

LA DEE DOO DEE

(TALKING SHIT WITH) BULIMIA COLON

Bay area news: everyone's favorite **ROLLINS** "not the real thing but an incredible simulation!" **SPERRY** has been singing for big percussion rockers **SHARKBAIT**. Rumor has it that Sperry has QUITE a large (11"?) penis. So I guess he outdoes Henry in one department. Actually, since Sperry wants to be JUST LIKE HENRY, I wonder what would happen if Rollins put out a book called **"I LOVE ALL OF MY 10 1/2 INCHES"** – would Sperry have to take the cleaver to his meat? Maybe TOPY SF can put him in touch with a certain **EUNICH 23**?

YOU LIE DOWN WITH DOGS, YOU GET UP WITH FLEAS, as they say. We were all surprised to hear that **GEZA X** was going to produce **CELEBRITY SKIN**'s new record for Triple X. Not only did Geza (aka "Cat killer") once do a **GERMS** bootleg, but he so totally trashed **DON BOLLES**' character in the liner notes that Don threatened to sue. But we were even more surprised to hear that Geza was bringing in **PAUL ROESSLER** to play keyboards with the band. Paul, now a member of the highly derivative MOURNING GLORY, has an even worse history of relations with several of the Skinners and supposedly one of them threatened to cut off his arm before playing with Paul again. The tapes we've heard of the record sound so great that we figured all was going well, but the latest now is that Geza is refusing to release the masters because of some minor dispute. (P.S. "Don Bolles" is going to use his real name [Jimmy something] on the record.)

PAT (RUTHEN)SMEAR will be back soon with another solo record on SST and a second **DEATHFOLK** (w/Gary Jacoby of CELEBRITY SKIN) on NEW ALLIANCE. *(Pat's best friend Mikki say's)* Pat is one of the most innovative and technically gifted artists around, and we can't wait to see what he comes up with this time.

After doing the interview with BEN IS DEAD, which appeared in the last issue, **SKIP ARNOLD** had some problems getting into a certain **LACE** show. He is still on their performance committee but I guess one of the door people had just read the interview and was showing his disapproval of some of the things Skip had to say concerning the internal politics of LACE.

(Ex-ADOLESCENTS, CHRISTIAN DEATH etc.) **RICK AGNEW** and his wife to be had a baby. This may be the ultimate test to see if having children can truly change a man.

BULIMIA BANQUET are in the middle of a massive European tour. **DEZ** (ex-BLACK FLAG) and a couple of the other guys are back in the band. (Oh, and there's a massive writing campaign to get TWIN PEAKS back on the air. Save Bulimic Jula Bell's job and write to Channel 7).

INGER (of the **NYMPHS**) is being held in a mental "RE-HAB" holding facility. Apparently Inger gave DAVID GEFFEN CO. power of attorney, making the company her legal guardian, in effect, so Big Dave (or who ever is in charge there) had her put away. Stay tuned for more news of the evil blind rage of Mr. Geffen. Do you think they would have done the same thing to a crazy male (THURSTON MOORE)?

HIPPYCORE is not happening anymore.

JAWBREAKER who broke up but got back together just after the mourning period are going to break all our hearts again and move to SF. (Of course they probably *will* be more appreciated there). *(P.S. I don't have your number guys, please leave it next time you call!)*

HOLE's LP produced by SONIC **KIM GORDON**, is finished being recorded. We also heard that Perry Farrel's (ex-?) wife (?) is working on Hole's next video. There's a rumor that this ex is excommunicated from **JANE'S ADDICTION** because she is doing too much heroin and the band is trying to clean up. Of course, you know what mother said about listening to rumors. Is it true that HOLE's COURTNEY is doing a side project with (ex-**SAVAGE REPUBLIC**'S) ETHAN PORT on drums called **MOUTH**? (And was that really Courtney on America's Most Wanted?)

NATE STARKMAN & SON'S JACKSON DEL RAY allegedly moved to Chicago owing the **EXECUTIVE SLACKS** lots of money for some recording debacle last year. Apparently the band was flown out here to record an album, but when the people financing the project (Richard Jordan/Southern Sounds Music?) backed out, so did NATE, leaving the band holding the bag, the tape, and a lawsuit from the recording studio for the time and materials.

CARGO RECORDS IN SAN DIEGO is continuing to sign a bunch of San Diego bands, and also has some deal going with **KK RECORDS** in Belgium. This could be very cool.

As far as that **SURGERY** story goes it seems that it wasn't the roadie who was killed but a guy who was walking on the sidewalk.

THE RAMONES licensed BLITZKR!EG BOP to **BUDWEISER**. *Now* maybe they'll retire.

NO MEANS NO

photo: Annabelle Port

NO MEANS NO interview: Outside the Club With No Name.

Flipside did a really extensive interview with these guys last year, so I didn't want to repeat all those old questions. Instead we quizzed them about their latest projects and goals. If you've never heard of these "Three Guys from Victoria, Canada", you should investigate. They keep getting better and more intense all the time. My only criticism is that some of their songs tend to wander a bit. But their originality, intensity, intelligence, and all around thrash-a-bility more than compensate. NO MEANS NO are one of the last truly "Alternative" bands around that can actually play. They've got a bunch of records out on Alternative Tentacles plus some great T-Shirts! Buy! BUY! BUY!!! *By Ethan & Annabelle*

Is Jello Biafra continuing on his quest to sing on every Alternative Tentacles release?

Rob: Yeah, well you gotta give the guy a break, he has all this music and no band. It was a fun thing to do. It was a learning experience. I don't think it's the greatest record in the world, but I don't think it's a bad record. It's just a fun collaboration. People who like us and who like him will probably get a kick out of it.

What have you guys been doing since we last spoke a year ago?
Rob: A lot of nothing. We did a big big European tour then went off on our own separate ways for about six or seven months. John got divorced, I got married, ...Andy got pregnant, it was a terrible time. But we've got great ideas for new products to sell to you folks.
Andy: Essentially to sum it all up we needed a break and decided to do it.
You've put a lot of records out since the last time we spoke.
Rob: Yes, we've been putting out a lot of vinyl without doing anything else, really. We've got a live record coming out from some shows in Holland... which is out now. We've got a re-issue of an old EP called "You Kill Me" with our first LP "Sex Mad" on C.D. It's also coming out on a 12" Vinyl EP. I don't know why, though... does anyone buy vinyl anymore?
You guys should know.
Rob: Yeah, well, not really. We sell everything else. I think it's a thing of the past. (To Roger Miller) Nice Suit...I like that suit! It didn't go unnoticed, let me tell ya.
Did you play other shows with Roger Miller?
Rob: We did about five or six shows. We started playing in Texas, and did some shows in Arizona, and I really enjoyed playing with him, we had a really great time. We also did about nine shows with VICTIM'S FAMILY at the beginning of the tour, and that was really good, because we're really good friends, and they're such a great band, and it was really nice to do a show with people that have something to offer. New bands need to open up, but it's nice to have a balanced show where it's not just the "headlining" band and any body else gets to open. And we're going across Canada next month with a band called the EX from Holland, maybe four or six shows in the states.
Andy, what band were you working with last year?
Andy: I was playing with a band called the SHOW BUSINESS GIANTS which someone described as a cross between JOHNATHAN RICHMOND and SHOCKABILLY, which I actually think is pretty accurate, and I was playing bass [rather than guitar] with people from various Victoria bands, plus Tom Halston, Jenny Reaper who plays keyboards, and Tom whose been writing these weirdo songs for ages and ages and put out tapes as the Show Bizness Giants with different people and wanted to get a band together, and since I had some time off we actually got a band together for six months and put a tape together, and hopefully the tape will come out some day soon.
Well, your bass playing was great on that last song.
BINGO: How was it working with Jello Biafra? Was he tense?
Rob: Yea, Jello's always tense. But we're always tense ourselves. In fact there was enough static in the room to bend iron bars. It was a horrible experience.
Andy: It was like working with one of those Russian guys.
Rob: Noooooooo.
BINGO: Did you ever see him relaxed, because I never have.
Rob: Yes! Actually he did relax, especially when we were coming home from mixing.

"No one can worship God or love his neighbor on an empty stomach." —Woodrow Wilson

Andy: I drove Biafra home where he was staying one night, & he was playing a FISH KARMA AND THE HEADACHES tape and having a good 'ol time. He's a nice fella.
Rob: You have to take him on his own terms. He's a unique individual and demands to be treated uniquely. Your make the decision to do that or not. We did because we respect his talents and his intelligence.
Andy: But so do we.
Rob: Yes, we're very temperamental at times as well. Especially with each other.
Andy: We don't sound like the DEAD KENNEDY'S and they didn't sound like us, although we're all DEAD KENNEDY'S fans, and there were a couple of eerie times, especially with the music Biafra wrote, which I really enjoyed playing, though it's not the kind of music I would write...

Jello wrote most of the music?

Andy: Yeah, about half the record is our music and half the record is his music, and all the words are his, except the song "Bad" which we added some words to. I think it's a fun record.
Rob: Actually, my favorite song on the record is "Bad" because it's sort of a dream to have Jello Biafra singing a HANSEN'S BROTHERS song, which was written as a Hansen's Brothers song. It's just schizoid, so I enjoy that a lot.

So Jello Biafra is continuing on his quest to sing on every Alternative Tentacles release?

Rob: Yea, well you gotta give the guy a break, he has all this music and no band. It was a fun thing to do. It was a learning experience. I don't think it's the greatest record in the world, but I don't think it's a bad record. It's just a fun collaboration. People who like us and who like him will probably get a kick out of it.

Who did the cover work?

Rob: WINSTON SMITH, which is really nice.

Oh yea, that's Jello's man.

ROB: I think the back is better than the front, actually...it's hilarious.
(No Man is about to drive off. Rob yells to them)
Are we doing any shows together after this? Seattle? OK, see ya there
(#482 KSL with a Negativeland sticker and Massachusetts license plate.)

BEN: Are you making your living off the band now?

ANDY: We are, actually, right now. We're extremely, extreeeeeeeemly lucky the fact that a lot of people come to our shows and...
ROB: ...especially because of Europe. Europe is where bands like us make money. Which is really nice. It's an awfully long way to go, but we enjoy it.

BINGO: You are my bass god. What do you listen to?

ROB: Bass God..."Bass God", I like the sound of that.
ANDY: I can't believe this conversation...I'm about to be sick!
ROB: What do I listen to? A lot of guitar players, actually. Well, I picked up the bass by accident. I think what inspired the band in its inception, what inspired the band was a lot of things that were going on then, like the STRANGLERS, which is where we got our ideas for a rhythm section thing, which helped us become a rhythm section. But the basic reason I impress people as a bass player is that I demand to be turned up loud, on an equal level with the rest of the band, so you actually hear what I'm playing. There are plenty of really great bass players you never hear because they're buried 3/4 of the way down in the mix. I think the bass is a third of the music. Like John Antoinson(?), you listen to the WHO's best record live at Leeds, you think that's great bass playing and then you realize it's a bass. So the secret to being a good bass player is to play a long time and to turn up really loud, and if someone tells you to turn down, you tell them to shut up. Really, as far as bass playing goes I'm a staunch conservative. I don't play slap or anything fancy, or even use my fingers, I just use a pick. It's not how you play, it's what you play. A lot of guys can play really really skillfully but they have no music. We try to keep that at the forefront of what we do.

Is that pop-top on your van new?

ROB: Yea, innovators that we are. It worked for mom and dad, so we figured it would work for us.
ROB: Hey John! Our house has disappeared.
At this point the band realizes someone told the person they were going to stay with that they had another place to stay. Never one to leave a band homeless in Hollywood, we offered our floor, and so ended another 4AM interview.

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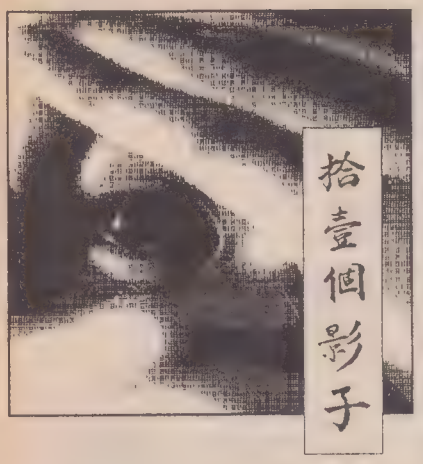

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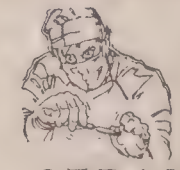

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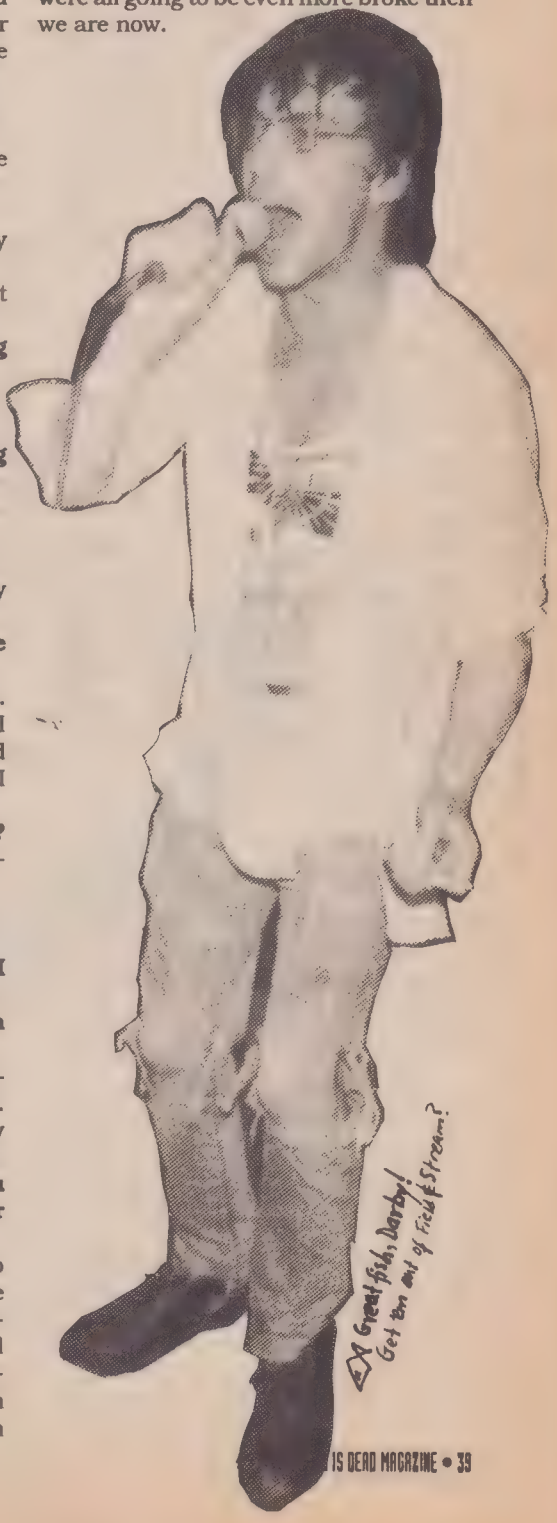
CITIZEN FISH

Transcribed by Tomás & Kerin!
Interviewed by Evan, Darby, and Ivy

So maybe you don't know who this band is. If you've ever been involved in punk, especially that from England, you've probably heard of at least one of the bands these members have played in. With the Subhumans, Culture Shock, and finally Citizen Fish, the lead singer "Dick" has continuously been at the forefront. Swell interview, and all-round nice-guy, here we spoke with him in their van parked aside Club Radio "on the Westside" just before and just after the show.

Dick: You have a cigarette, anybody, so I can concentrate better? *(Great "broke tip", BUM cigarettes)*
Darby: Noo.
Evan: I've got Clove cigarettes.
Dick: Clove, what-the-fuck is that?
Evan: You've never tried one?
Dick: No.
Ivy: It's good.
Evan: Do you have a light? Well try one here.
Ivy: On tape we'll try one.
Evan: Pretty tasty – smell them.
Dick: O.K. let's go.
Darby: Oh, I wanted to know how many members of the Subhumans are in here...
Dick: O.K. I'll tell you. (in supersonic speed) There's me Dick on vocals, there's Trotsky on the drums, and there's Phil, who used to play bass for the SUBHUMANS, is now playing guitar, and then there's Jasper who used to be in CULTURE SHOCK who replaced Paul the original bassist right around February 9, 89. He was in Culture Shock for about 6 months.
Darby: Woooaahh (amazed at the speed in which he spoke). How many interviews have *you* done!? Are you ready to possibly get a head rush? (from the cloves)
Ivy: They make you all dizzy...
Darby: And you cough blood!
Ivy: No, that's bullshit.
Evan: No!!! You can smoke ten-thousand packs a day.
Ivy: Keep going (with the interview).
Evan: Ah shut up.
Darby: O.K., the next issue (of BEN) is going to be on "broke" – getting things for free or cheap, scams, frauds, stealing. Do you have any tips?
Evan: The English perspective.
Dick: Yeah, get a big coat and if it hasn't got any inside pockets make one. Just cut a whole in the lining right, just sew it up real neat, about a foot wide and as deep as you like, and just do the old supermarket trick. Get some sort of dummy hand, attach it to the end of your sleeve and fill the rest of the sleeve with padding so you got this false arm then you get your other arm on the other side of the coat lifting the things off the shelves...
Darby: Whoa! I like that one!
Evan: That's a good one.
Dick: I've never done it but it sounds like a good idea.
Darby: Oh, you've never done it?
Dick: Well fuck I've never found a dummy hand yet, I'm waiting...
(laughter)... Now, what did you say about music?
Darby: Have any tips for the starving musician?
Evan: Touring tips?
Dick: Drink rich coffee.
Darby: How long have you been doing this?
Dick: Oh, (reluctant)
Evan: Too long?
Darby: You don't have a regular job?
Dick: Me? No. Well about two years silly and about ten years seriously.
Darby: So you were doing it at one time and it wasn't serious?
Dick: When I was still in school yeah. When it was like pure punk rock chaos. I was in a band called THE MENTAL. And it was just a racket, I couldn't sing and I wrote stupid lyrics.
Evan: Did you ever put anything out?
Dick: Yeah we had an EP, with six hundred copies of it.
Darby: So it's worth a million now?
Dick: No one actually knows about it.
Evan: No one knows about it, really? I want one!
Darby: How'd you hook up with CRINGER?
Dick: They're great people. I kind of underestimated how good they are as well. They play really good gigs and they say "oh that was shit" but it's not. It's good.
Darby: Lance always does that. Did you hook up with them by hearing their music?
Dick: Jasper came over to San Francisco last October and met Martin Sprouse whose address I'd given to him for somebody to stay with if he was stuck. And Martin knew Cringer, and we were thinking we had to get together a North American tour somehow and he put us on to Cringer who were willing to do it... Like we would do this with them and they would come over to Europe with us. As long as we cover the plane fares then everything will work out, if we don't then were all going to be even more broke then we are now.



Much talk about how Scream in Pomona was a bad experience for Citizen Fish and Cringer, a rip-off and oppressive to the kids that went. Other sources at this show namely Ted Carrol (DISTORTED PONY) and Steve Ratter (KXLU) confirm this scam/ fucked up attitude that Scream displayed – beware

Darby: If you have any more tips on "broke" or cheap, maybe as were talking just say them.

Dick: Well, buy clothes from a second hand shop? No really. *(Somebody steps into the van and tells Dick he's to go on in five minutes)* Socks. Socks are cheap shit. I don't know where these came from, (looking at his clothing). I was given this. This shirt I've had for years... Before your t-shirt wears out swap it with someone else. Things like that. You don't need to look neat and shit, and if you need to look neat there still tons of clothes for cheap. That's it for clothes. As for food, you can either eat less or beg for change and eat more or cook your own food. We just went into this place today called Coco's.

(a chorus of Ohhhhh's!!!)

Dick: You know what it's like. It's like a Denny's but it's worse. And a whole family was sittin there and they were just fuckin' obese. I mean, you could tell they went there for breakfast, dinner, tea, supper... I can just imagine this family sitting there every day, really horrible... so cook for yourself!

Darby: Are you guys meat eaters? Any tips for bands who are vegetarians and who are touring?

Dick: Most vegetarians are not vegans and most pizzas are ok in this country cause you can just order them with what you want, if you want something more healthy then drink lots of orange juice...

Evan: Eat some lettuce.

Darby: Smoke some cloves...

Dick: Well you know I'm living with it (smoking), I guess it's just like the old nipple substitute, isn't it really.

The "van" part of the interview was interupted. Citizen Fish played music and then finished, loaded out some equipment and then we continued. Evan gives Dick tips on getting rid of hiccups. Still Dick hiccups through the whole rest of the interview.

Darby: What's with the fish?

Dick: Early Subhumans days, which is approximately 1980-81, there used to be a thing where certain words would catch on as just being words to say. It seems a bit silly to explain the rationale behind this, but one of those big words was "fish" because it's a nice sounding word, right? It's always that the reason comes after the event. The event was that we were saying "fish" instead of fuck, were saying fish instead of die, we said fish instead of almost any word you could think of. We would walk around and just say "oh fish!" Whatever. And then fish are actually real nice, symmetrical, colorful, variable peaceful creatures who don't bomb each other and things like that.... So then somebody starts bugging me with all this Astrology shit and turns out I'm a Pisces anyway so it all fits in. Plus fish are like really sociable creatures and are really a good example for human beings. And then, what? You want poet fish? Fuck it. *Blab, blab, blab, hence this comment.*

Dick: We came over on Virgin Airways to New York and they give you a free pair of socks! Fuckin' great but they're really this long!

Evan: Why socks? Do they really think everyone needs socks?

Dick: Some airlines give you a pair of headphones and then charge three dollars for it. Virgin just gives you a pair of headphones to keep, and a pair of socks and a toothbrush and a little weeny tube of toothpaste. Fuck it, like go Virgin every time!

Darby: Is it expensive to go Virgin? Did you get a deal?

Dick: No. It's as expensive certainly as anything else.

Darby: What does BLUURG mean?

Dick: Oh nothing, just a name I thought up.

Lots of talk about fish and computers and computer fish that go "blip, blip, bluurg."

Evan: How do you get your records over to the U.S. so cheap?

Dick: The people who actually manufacture them at Southern Studios in London have set up a distribution base in Chicago who have also started manufacturing as well so we can get them made in the USA which then makes them a lot cheaper and saves all that export/import crap...

Darby: Here's a question concerning our broke issue: Do you believe in bad karma, like the morals of theft?

Dick: Oh no. If you take from the rich then you're giving to the poor, which is yourself. So therefore there's no Karma involved. It's the rich's karma in the fact that they're gonna get something stolen.

Darby: But then there's always someone poorer than you...

Dick: So then they can steal something from me!

Darby: So it's ok? But what if they steal from you and make you poorer than they are?

Dick: If you're poor you can't get much poorer than poor, so like if somebody takes something from me, the chances are that I'll get something back in return which blows out the whole theory of thieving; It all becomes give and take. So if I swap a t-shirt with somebody else, then that person will swap that t-shirt with someone else and it all becomes give and take. But most people have far too much property like people who own big chain stores and deserve to have their shop shop lifted and they have shoplifting worked into their budget, losses for shoplifting is like an annual figure for the taxman. So people have got to shoplift...

The interview moves on to other issues, such as the obvious joke of Darby saying she would transcribe this interview.

Darby: What about voltage? Did you guys bring your own equipment?

Dick: We came as tourists.

Darby: So you didn't have to deal at all with any of that shit?

Dick: Work permits and all that shit costs loads of money and we didn't have it so we just came as tourists.

Darby: Do you survive off the band or Bluurg?

Dick: Blurrg doesn't give me any money. Record royalties from Culture Shock and Subhumans is what I live on which is about five percent more than what the state would give you on dole money.

Darby: Is it easy to get dole money or unemployment money?

Dick: No it's not easy at all these days because you've got to prove that you're actually actively searching for jobs. You have to bring in papers signed by people in the company saying you had some interview at a company and failed it.

Darby: You have to make some really exciting comment on the war.

Evan: The war's over!

Dick: The war is not over!

Darby: Do you like the yellow ribbons?

Dick: No, they suck!

Lance Cringer: The funny thing is that the first time I saw yellow ribbons is when I went to protest at Redwood Summer up North when Earth First! organized a demonstration against deforestation and the people who lived there and supported the loggers and the cutting of trees tied ribbons around them to show their support. So the funny thing is it's the same ribbon.

Evan: No more ribbons.

Evan meant well, but the others obviously weren't ready to drop the subject of ribbons for another five minutes.

Darby: But they don't have any equivalent to yellow ribbons in England?

Dick: No, thank God for that.

Darby: What do they do in England that's similar?

Dick: Well you see flags flying but not a lot. Well no one in Britain understands why the fuck we're involved in the first place. The United Nations is a bunch of rhetoric, cliché bunch of crap. I got this "Come on we're going" stare, haven't I?

Darby: Yeah, we're ready, you ready?

All go "Yeah"

When parting Evan found a flannel shirt (in good condition) on the sidewalk so he ran it back to give to Dick who was very happy indeed. The end.

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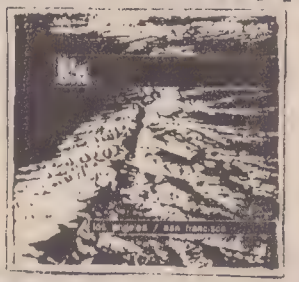

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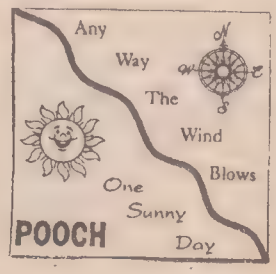


POOCH 2 song single!
Pooch has done it again! His 2nd solo single. The pop wind blows hot!

MUSIC REVIEWS

Here you will find a bunch of opinions on a bunch of audio recordings that you can take any way you like – which hopefully isn't too seriously. The writers of these reviews are of no all-knowing or above-average standings. The fact that they are published should not give them any more validity then the (often contradictory) opinions of any person. If you sent something in and it dosn't appear here it may be in the next issue – 'til we get more advertisements to add more magazine pages we will not be able to increase the size of this section. And though we try our best we can't review everything that is sent in.

ACCIDENTAL TRIBE – [7" EP]
Hyper grunge, blues, badness. Very much in the same pot as CLAWHAMMER with a taste of some bad street drugs thrown in for authenticity. *–Evan* (Noiseville, P.O. Box 124, Yonkers, NY 10710)

AMERICAN SOUL SPIDERS – [7" EP]
A weak recording of a Japanese band that has the potential to be a leader in the retro '60s psych scene. The songs, pressed on yellow vinyl, don't expand out of the three chord format too much. "Teenage Jesus" is the standout of their three originals bringing to mind damaged IRON BUTTERFLY or crude STEPPENWOLF. – *Tomás* (Sympathy for the Record Industry, 4901 Virginia Ave Long Beach CA 90805)

ASBESTOSDEATH – DEJECTION [EP]
Do two songs make an EP? Well, whatever. These songs thump, crunch, and squeal in a melancholy, MELVIN-ish sort of way. The vocals on side A are your typical low, painful growl/screaming, the kind that make me think how great GORE were for including lengthy lyric sheets with their records, but never singing a word. The B-side is instrumental. I do like this record, sounds great, looks good too. The death theme is getting older and more tired in my book, but for no more than $2.50 you can't complain. – *Damion* (Profane Existence PO Box 8722, Minneapolis MN 55408)

BABYLAND – [7"]
These guys had to be great for the sole fact that THE HUMAN LEAGUE was second on their list of thank yous. The record is boss: four songs of computerized dance combined with metal noise and loud, mean vocals. It doesn't compare with their live shows; no sparks flying or free giveaways, but still a gas. *–Ivy* (Flipside Records, P.O. Box 363, Whittier, CA, 90608)

BARBED WIRE DOLLS – [7"]
Don't confuse these guys with the all girl band of the same name (I think it's a different band). This is yet another SFTRI release. Grungy rock, one song slow and long, the other is more upbeat and shorter. I wasn't blown away, but I couldn't say I disliked it, and, well, yeah it's a cool record. *–Damion* (Sympathy for the Record Industry)

I

BASTRO – SING THE TROUBLED BEAST [LP]
A very eclectic mix of influences and styles on this disc. Most of it reminds me of the rhythms of the MINUTEMEN with a powerful dose of distortion and noise. There is also a melodic anthem "Tobacco in the Sink" which is the most uplifting of the 10 songs. With the exception of "Recidivist," a strange mimimalist piano and organ ditty, the rest of it is downright ugly in sound and attitude. This definitely grew on me. *–Evan* (Homestead Records)

BLACKBIRD – [7"]
Rockin', rockin', rockin' (I know it's not allowed, but how else could I describe this?). "Little Church of Ignorance" is glam rock without a screeching guitar solo. I really dug this song. "Glad I'm Gone" is boring. Boring vocals, boring guitar solo, boring music. Is this really the same band on both sides? *–Kerin* (Lost Records, PO Box 761129, Los Angeles, CA 90076)

THE BLANKS – IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY [LP]
I kind of wish there had been some type of emergency to keep me from listening to this... There, with that out of the way we can get to the meat of this humble DYI 7 song release, not their first mind you but "their most popular" (so states their bio). Imagine the REPLACEMENTS are no names, six years ago, playing somewhere small and bland, like Madame Wong's. Now imagine the band opening up for them, let's call them the BLANKS, they play about 30 minutes of boring three-piece American rock, stripped down, with plenty of "feeling." There you have this record. Not even worth trying to sell back. *–Tomás* (Falsified Records, P.O. Box 190 Birmingham, MI 48012)

BLIND JUSTICE – ANIMAL RIGHTS [C]
I wholeheartedly support this project put out by O.C. Peace Punks (though the phrase "animal rights" makes me cringe). Side A is a mix of music from the now defunct BLIND JUSTICE and info from various anti-vivisection organizations. The music has been done before – loud, obnoxious, get your adrenaline flowing. The

THE BID RECORD REVIEW CODES!!!

ENVIRONMENTALLY INSENSITIVE PACKAGING: Some bands/labels just can't figure out why the Post Office has those "small" and "medium" sized envelopes, when a BIG one will do just as well.

ENVIRONMENTALLY INSENSITIVE PRESS KIT: Ian MacKaye once said that press kits were a form of masturbation. You figure it out.

SELF-INDULGENT LYRICS: Obscure metaphors, preening complexity, the singer's equivalent to the guitar solo. See also Press Kit.

OH YEAH?: Band has received excessive amounts of (positive) coverage in rival zines.

PROMOCLIPPED: The music industry seems dedicated to keeping us in the poorhouse. So what if we sell a record back – maybe some kid will buy that record, take it home, play it, and it will change his or her life! Can we deny him or her that chance?

PARENTAL ADVISORY STICKERS

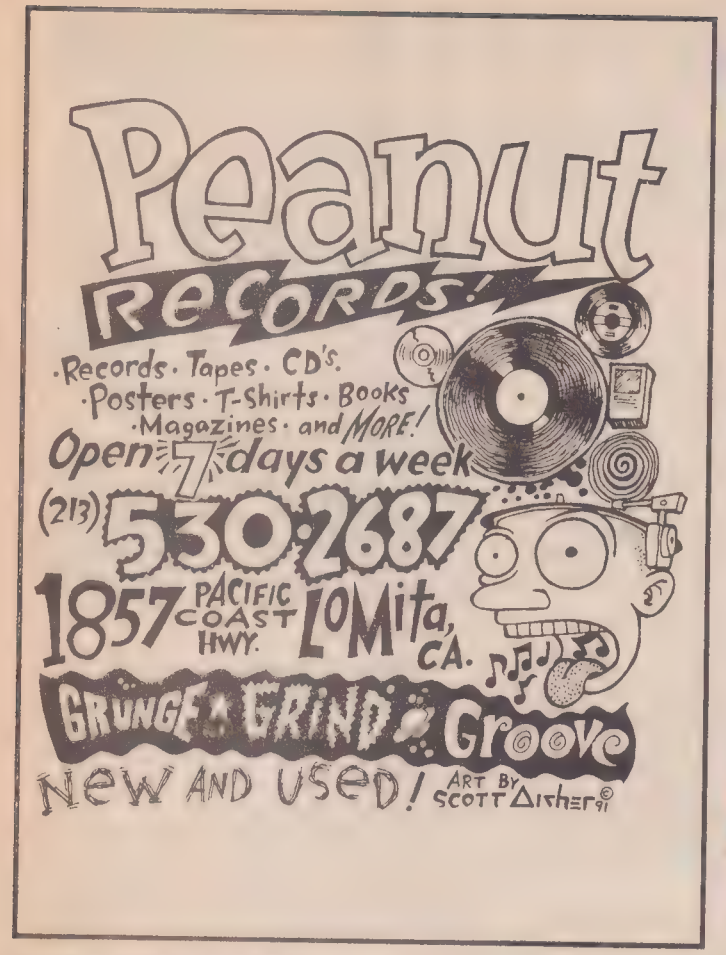
DISINFORMATION: Singles which don't indicate if they are 45 or 33 rpm run the risk of being reviewed at the wrong speed. Singles with big holes run the risk of not being reviewed at all.

FRIENDS AND LOVERS: We won't name names, but the staffs of the Weekly and the Reader both regularly review their boyfriends, roommates, etc. So do we – but we're more honest about it. Really.

OVERKILL: Some bands, not properly utilizing their obviously generous financial situations, continue to send us duplicate press kits, albums, and flyers for the same shows. Sure we get a lot of stuff from a lot of bands and often need to be reminded of their existence, but as we are trying to grow out of our self destructive behaviors/patterns (isn't that what the last issue was all about?), torture seems the last thing we need. If you are going to waste your money, do it right. Send it to us directly. Copymat and the Post Office need your support much less than we do. Please transfer all repetative and excess information and music into cash, check, or money orders and send them directly to the magazine. You better believe we'll appreciate your existance. (Example: 3-d Picnic and No Talking)

GUITAR SOLOS: Do you ever watch guitar playing during their solos? The way they close their eyes, move their fingers real fast, and wack the instrument around? The way they jerk around the stage with their tongues hanging out?

"...Our hearts are hard and inflexible, having no love for anything but strange flesh, and heaps of money, and popular noises."—Jeremy Taylor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vocals and the lyrics are what makes this shine. The singer drives his point home loudly and passionately. Side B contains interviews with members of P.R.I.S.M. and Anti-Establishment Fanzine among others. This is a well thought out and fantastically put together package (only two bucks!!) with a booklet full of info and addresses in connection with the animal rights movement. A must have for all P.C. scenesters. –*Kerin* (O.C. Peace Punks, PO Box 6188, Fullerton, CA 92634)

BORED – TAKE IT OUT ON YOUR [LP]
The POISON IDEA of Oz? Not quite. Maybe if these blokes gain a couple hundred pounds, then they'll match up. As it is though, this is somewhere between THE ELECTRIC FERRETS and some third rate Sub Poppers like the late, unlamented CAT BUTT, alternating between inferior punk revival moves and shallow pseudo-Seattlisms. Their version of "Final Solution" only holds its ground compared to PETER MURPHY's limpwristed bastardization; CLAW HAMMER this ain't, nor anything close to the original. Singer Dave Thomas can't hold a candle to his SCTV namesake, let alone CROCUS BEHEMOTH. This label's weakest offering to date. –*Mike Snider* (Dogmeat, GPO BOX 2366V, Melbourne, 3001 Australia)

BORIS MIKULIC – HERESY [CD]
Neato tortured artist stuff. It said in his press pack that he was born into an orphanage and locked down in a horse stable due to his unruly behavior during his informative years. Right on!... It's good stuff with a beat to back it up. Industrial, yes, but in a good way. Much more interesting than half the other techno doo doo out there. –*Pork* (Caroline Records, 114 W. 26th St., NY, NY 10001)

JESUS LIZARD

THE BOLSHEVIKS – PERESTROIKA [7"]
Fun punk rock that reminds me of any punk that came out of the period of '77-'80. Four catchy songs that you will certainly be humming for days to come. This record came with a small bottle of Stoli to bribe the reviewer (me) but I'm sure as hell Darby guzzled that sucker before I could get my hands on it! –*Dave Gomez* (Damaged Goods) *(Sometimes lots of mail junk isn't so annoying. In this case we not only got the usual BUT we also got crack & booze stickers, an airline size bottle of Stoli [yes Dave, that was guzzled in minutes – sorry, the Stoli I am addicted to!], and a letter which noted that our invaluable Mick Bladder had a hand in connecting these guys with his friend at the label Damaged Goods... There ya go –Darby).*

BRUJERIA – DEMONICO! [7"]
Four brutal songs in the NAPALM DEATH, CARCASS, GODFLESH camp. All the lyrics are in Spanish, but the vocals have so many effects on them it doesn't matter what language it is. Interesting. –*Evan* (Nemesis Records)

CHRIS CONNELLY – WHIPLASH BOYCHILD [C]
I want to marry this man. CHRIS CONNELLY has more talent that he knows what to do with and more good looks than I know how to drool over. REVOLTING COCKS this is not!!! This album, rather, shows his darker side and contains songs in the 4AD vein. Most of the tracks are melodic numbers with CONNELLY'S incredible voice luring you into a pleasurable trance. "Daredevil" is my favorite track with "Stowaway" coming in second. I can't even put into words what this album sounds like. Just put away those BAUHAUS albums, turn on this dark star, and ENJOY! – *Kerin* (Wax Trax Records, 1659 N. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60647-5507) *(Chris, the marriage contract and picture are in the mail. You set the date!)*

THE COUPE de GRACE – THE COUPE de GRACE [LP]
Speed metal. Their promo crap reads "Holy Fuck! This Rips!" —Jake Wisely, their label president. He sounds like a man to watch in the '90s. Their stuff also babbles on about METALLICA, so why don't you go to the source, after all they got the Grammy, and boy howdy that's the ultimate proof of good music. They dedicated the record to their folks, who are very cool. I'm sure Mom puts it on at all the bridge parties. Songs like "Barbed Wire" are just the kind of stuff to listen to coming out of intensive care. Come on out to L.A. and knock 'em dead at the Troubador. All of them. –*Rush* (Twintone Records/Red Decibel 2541 Nicollet Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55404)

THE CRAZIES – SELF DESTRUCT [7"]
Aussie retro-grunge on pink vinyl (which of course is Sympathy's specialty). Three chord STOOGEy-punk that sounds great when played loud. A must for collectors of this genre. "Self Destruct" has a riff or two with that buried guitar solo thing going on. "I Wanna Kill You" with its meathead – "haven't 'ad enough pints yet mate" lyrics —"know what I'm gonna do, I'm gonna kill you" makes it seem like them opening up for the DWARVES is inevitable. Excellent comic strip label on the B side. –*Tomás* (Sympathy For the Record Industry)

CRINGER – TIME FOR A LITTLE SOMETHING... [7"]
Once again, CRINGER improves vastly from the last release. Dealing with personal issues rather than their social-political issues of the past, the CRINGER folks hit home harder with each song. This is probably the best and most cohesive record to date. –*Dave Gomez* (Vinyl Communications)

CYBERAKTIF – TENEBREA VISION [C]
CYBERAKTIF is the working title of the collaborative efforts of Cevin Key of SKINNY PUPPY and Bill Leeb of FRONTLINE ASSEMBLY. Combining scratched electronic tinkling offset by Leeb's rasping vocals, strewn across a variety of rhythmic backbeats, Tenebrea Vision automatically disintegrates all forms of synthetic noise. "The Road Kill", "Nothing Stays", and "Face to Face" are stand out. Thumbs up. –*Ty* (Wax Trax)

JEFF DAHL – ULTRA UNDER [LP]
DAHL always has a star-studded line up, and this record is no exception. Some of the cuts, like "Elks Lodge Riot", really rip, with DAHL blasting out his neo-Iggy licks, ably backed up by Dave Nazworthy and Jaime Pina, of CHEMICAL PEOPLE. But much of the intricacy and emotional depth of I KILL ME are gone here, and there is a generic quality to much of the record, especially the ballads and the lame-duck cover of the RUNAWAYS' "Cherry Bomb". Not up to the standard he's set for himself. –*Mikki* (Triple X Records)

DECADENT DUB TEAM – MELTDOWN [7"]
A VANILLA ICE dissin' tune (get the title ?) which unfortunately doesn't flex much rap prowess either. I think the DUB TEAM should try experimenting more as such – with instrumentals and effects. There is a strong beat box program going on here and some inventive scratches and Tri X gets some points for putting hip-hop from Texas on 7" grey vinyl. Imagine "King Of Rock"-era RUN DMC done by socially minded Caucasians. – *Tomás* (Triple X)

DEEP SIX – EXPECTATIONS FOR BEHAVIOR [C]
Flangey guitar and the vocal style of a psycho mass murderer make this four song tape a must for anyone into the sounds of early CURE or BAUHAUS. "Back to my Box" is a cool song, and the whole thing is nice-n-scary. –*Ivy* (An Old Woman and her Pig Production, 213/437-9602)

DIJITS – [7"]
Didn't really take a liking to this disc right off. Got up late for work and put it on to "review" and decided it sounded thin and had the vocals buried. Later the very same week, I slammed a lot of suds at one of the local juice joints and came home completely drunk. I put it on and flipped out. LOUD ASS GUITAR ALL OVER THE FUCKIN' PLACE!! Impossible to figure out drums...unintelligible vocal...la-la-la-la-la backing vocals...what can I say? Got drunk again last night (how rave) and put it on twice in a row. Go buy it and do the same thing. And don't forget the drunk part. I won't mention the cover of THE DICKIES' "Give it Back" on the flip. Wouldn't be fair, but they do it about as well as anybody is going to. –*Nick* (Touch & Go)

DILS – DILS DILS DILS [LP]
Worth it for the teen-dream picture on the back alone, musically this LP contains all the DILS you need for a loose, thrashy, noisy, three chord night of fun, circa 1977-1979. Side one is studio cuts, side two is live; yes, it's got "I Hate the Rich," "Class War," "National Guard" and all the stuff you love. So why don't you have this yet? Are you a hippie or something? –*Mikki* (Lost Records)

FAILURE – [7"]
I had to listen to this a couple of times before I could stand it. This band, I guess, is into making really monotonous songs á la KING CRIMSON (thank you, I.P. Freely). "Pre-Catastrophe" has some good bass work in it and is an ok song. "Dipped In Anger" reminds me of that black and white come at the beginning of "The Twilight Zone" since it goes on and on and on... Interesting stuff – Worth a listen. –*Kerin* (Sweet Smelling Records, PO Box 263, Hollywood, CA 90078)

THE FIXTURES – DEFECT [LP]
All one can say is that it is a long time coming and much welcome in its arrival. From the hard-working, always-playing FIXTURES, their debut LP (after 10 years?) called "Defect." First: the cover art is quite brilliant, a distorted picture of the band playing, the back cover, a more than typical collage of photos. Second: the music ranges from hardcore instrumentals to punk sing-a-long tunes to "hard-loud-fast" music with socio-political sentiment running strong. This fourteen song LP comes with a lyric sheet so you can check their "PC"-ness. I liked the music, the vocals grated sometimes but overall it's a worthwhile first effort. Hope they're around for another 10. –*Tomás* (PO Box 16283 Encino CA 91416-6283)

FLAG OF DEMOCRACY – DOWN WITH DEMOCRACY [LP]
Philadelphia fast punk anthem thrash-o-rama. Slurry, sloppy vocals, but the lyrics are actually rather worthwhile. The band formed in 1982 and their sound reflects the intense energy of

that time. Good guitar work, good production. Lots of "one-two-one-two." Imagine a fast and furious turbo thrash singer spewing: "Sunlight hits the dewdrop on the blade of grass, the light defracts, shoots rainbow through the morning still and up into my sleeping eyes.... I sit and stare, get the fuck outta here! Fuck You!" I dunno... I think it's funny. Titles include a "Kinder, Gentler Dick." Nice, silly cover, too. So get out yer combat boots, stomp the stereo, and Geek out! Good bunny hump music, and they come from DARBY, PA. So, what more could you ask for ?! *–Ethan & Annabelle* (Rave Records)

THE FLESHEATERS – DRAGSTRIP RIOT [DBLE LP]
No lyric sheet, which is a shame, considerng Chris D.'s well-deserved reputaton for crafting angry verse. But instead you can lose yourself in the FLESHEATERS' snarl and hum as they storm their way through seventeen songs. One of many highlights is "Tomorrow Never Comes," a stark statement of frustration perfectly set to a mangled guitar wail. Don't miss this – someday your kids are going to be asking you about this guy and you'll impress the hell out of them. *–Mikki* (SST–who else?)

GARGOYLES – CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION [7"]
I keep hearing good things about this band and their amazing live performances but this dark green 7" with cool artwork on the cover is real filler. Garage-punk blandness. They're from The City, I expected more power but instead there's a lame T-REX cover and two other throw-aways. I wanted to like it but even with the male/female kick-back vocals it wasn't happnin'. *–Tomás* (SFRT!)

THE GOREHOUNDS – SEMTEX [LP]
SEMTEX paints a portrait of the horrors of Irish youth today, with the perspective that addiction or being on the dole aren't nearly the sins that feeling sorry for yourself is. But the message is deeply veiled amid a personal network of references to an oppressive culture that I am sadly ignorant of, as well as a startling vocal delivery reminiscent of nothing so much as a masculine FETCHIN' BONES crossed with Rocky Horror era TIM CURRY. You know, like that. *–Mikki* (Big Chief Records, 611 Broadway, New York NY10012)

HUNTING SLEEVE – TILLIN' UP THE GROUND [CD]
Loud, fast, with a mild garage, psychedelic touch to dry funk. The sax adds a cool twist to a wide range of songs. For the most part I enjoy this with the exception of one song. *–Marcel* (Diggy Daggy Records P.O. Box 1891, Boston, MA. 02205)

THEE HYPNOTICS – COME DOWN HEAVY [CD]
Loud guitar rock. Gritty vocals with bluesy influences that I can best compare to MC5. Not really bad, just not my cup of coffee. *–Marcel* (Beggar's Banquet)

BEN IS DEAD WRITERS NAME DROP
(IN THE RECORD REVIEW SECTION ALONE)

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METALLICA	2 times
MC5	2 times
SONIC YOUTH	2 times
BEE GEE's	1 time
JAWBREAKER	1 time
JOAN JETT & MICHAEL J FOX	1 time
STEPPENWOLF	1 time

and like always many more!!!

"Qualqier fonto de sus nalgas puede haser un famber." –Abuelita Nico

THE JAKK – GOOD GIRLS DIG BAD DRUGS 7"
Total turn-it-up, crazy high energy, high powered R&B influenced rock n' roll. Think late MC5 meets FACES or HUMBLE PIE, or maybe Mitch Ryder's DETROIT WHEELS. Raw, raucous, drunken, and appropriately filthy, with great throaty, soulful, balls out vocals from Larry "Lex" Wahl. These guys have another disc forthcoming and I await its arrival like nothing else. *–Mike Snider* (Toad, 1508 Micheltorena #11, L.A., CA 90026)

JESUS LIZARD – GOAT [LP]
A little slowed down but intense as ever, Jesus Lizard shines as one of those bands you love to love. Noisy, drony, forceful, etc.– These guys seem like they must be drunk all the time. This LP would definately be a positive influense on your record collection. *–Darby* (Touch & Go)

KINGHORSE – KINGHORSE [LP]
Since I didn't have the time or the money to send in a S.A.S.E. for a lyric sheet, I share with you a few choice quotes from the press release. "We are the drops that give rise to a hateful flood." "I'm dangerous because I'm in touch with my own heart." "We're a holy war, a war against the lie." Keep in mind that this preposterous posturing is screamed amidst thick black guitar lines that would make OZZY pass out cigars if he knew. Even if you're the biggest DANZIG fan that lives (he produced), skip this. You can find better, and more honest stuff, at Gazzarri's. *–Mikki* (Caroline)

THE LEAVING TRAINS – SLEEPING UNDERWATER SURVIVORS [LP]
Even though I loved this record, I had to cringe every time my copy skipped. Not once, not twice, but five times on side one alone. The theory of yin and yang proves true again. Anyway, THE LEAVING TRAINS fourth album is a musical wonderland of vast proportions. Sardonic humor, heebee geebeeness, and masochism in one powerful album. What more could you ask for? Smutty rock n' roll somewhat reminiscent of THE CRAMPS although I don't know how lead singer Falling James would look in red heels and a black speedo. My two favorite tracks are "Suicide Blues" and "Relapse, Recover." "Suicide" is a rather tongue-in-cheek tribute to Sylvia Plath and includes my vote for lyrics of the year: "I've got the Suicide Blues/ It's like masturbation too/ It's something only I can do". "Relapse, Recover" is my life story. This band is so good, it hurts. *–Kerin* (SST Records)

LUNACHICKS – BABYSITTERS ON ACID [CD]
A lot of bands are doing this all female rock n'roll grunge stuff, but the LUNACHICKS aren't as serious about it as they are. The lyrics are intentionally dorky ("I'm makin it with other species, licking up their little feces") ; that's what I like best about them. It's loud, it's funny, and Theo has some nice '70s whoa-whoas throughout. *–Ivy* (Blast First, 262 Mott St. #324, NY, NY 10012)

MARBLE ORCHARD – 7" [EP]
More punk rock. Well, it's got a sixties punk band sound on "Something Happens." I like the B side better, it's got that YARDBIRDS' sound. They're from Eugene, Oregon. I'd be happy to see 'em if I was there. *–Rush* (Estrus Records, PO Box 2125, Bellingham, Wa 98227)

MELVINS – BULLHEAD [LP]
Minimal metal, slow and heavy. It sounds somewhere between SWANS' "I Crawled" and PRONG. Great production. No guitar solos, but a nice and long drum solo at the end. *–Damion* (Boner Records)

MONOMEN – STOP DRAGGIN' ME DOWN [LP]
Possibly one of the best garage-Northwest-style records I have ever heard. When I first got an earful of their "Burning Bush" single last year I knew something was brewing in Bellingham. And sure enough, the Estrus empire had begun to open its crusty garage door upon the world with the ghosts of the SONICS finally let free to haunt the marble orchards of the western world. OK, all the dramatics aside, this record completely smokes with its mile long chuggin' riffs splattering beer suds along the lonely logger trails from the tip of the WA border all the way to Portland. This LP has got tunes on it, songs that you would have bought a box set to own, but no, they're on one damn LP. Consistency throughout is the hallmark of this guitar stomp, no one song can be stopped for lagging, these all bust though the police barricades at crust warp 10, armed with only their instruments, a case of Black Label and some fine knowledge of Northwest noise. Godlike. *–Tomás* (Estrus, PO Box 2125, Bellingham, WA 98227)

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MONSULA – STRUCTURE [LP]
This record is great and I'm so glad. It's on that label of Lawrence..hum, I mean LARRY Livermore's. You know, that "East Bay Rules" label. I hope they don't get mad (you can't please anyone when you compare a band to other bands) but some of this reminds me of FUGAZI, and maybe a touch sounds like JAWBREAKER playing more hardcore... ok maybe not (maybe it's just that I'm playing this as much as I played the JAWBREAKER album when it first came out) – nice variety. The singer has a pierced penis too, so be sure if they play in your town to ask about it. He just might fling it out and show it to you. BEN IS DEAD *loves* cute boy bands – sorry, we can't help it. (Song two, side one *YES!*) *–Darby* (Lookout Records)

MOVING TARGETS – AWAY FROM ME [7"]
The MOVING TARGETS are doing just fine from the sound of this 3 song 7". The title song picks up right where their last album left off, with its melodic guitar licks. The B-side contains a live version of "Falling", a song from the previous record, and "Selfish," a speed-guitar thrash-along that sounds exactly like early HÜSKER DÜ. *–Evan* (Taang Records)

THE NEIGHBORHOODS – HOODWINKED [CD]
Driving rock, kind of a bar band style similar to what JOAN JETT

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and MICHAEL J. FOX were doing in that awful movie. Not that bad, nothing thrilling though. –*Marcel* (Road Runner Records 225 Lafayette St. Suite 709 New York, N.Y. 10012)

NILS SHIELDS – NUDE KNIGHT [CD]
Long, drawn out, wonderful messes of self indulgent real life situations. Yes! NILS, you are my hero and you made a hell of an album. I can't wait for the next one! Give me the phone number of the girl on the back cover! I want her for my "cannon girl"! –*Pork*

NOVA MOB – THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII [LP]
A new band with Grant Hart of HüSKER Dü, this time around playing and doing all the singing. Though neither the solo BOB MOULD stuff or this can live up to HüSKER Dü, the album does have its moments. Most of the songs are a bit mellow which I don't mind, but the extreme poppiness of some of them gets on my nerves a little. The real winner here is "Space Jazz", a long droning epic with cool chord progressions and vocals that sound like they were stolen right from the mouth of Gibby Haynes. –*Evan* (Rough Trade, 611 Broadway, Ste. 311, N.Y., N.Y. 10012)

ONE STEP AHEAD – BREAKING THE SILENCE [LP]
I was relieved that this was not actually a hardline straight-edge band as I had thought the name implied, but really this band is more cut out of the emo-punk mold that sounds like something between FUGAZI and SNUFF. Melodic tones, honest lyrics and good production make this worthwhile. The kind of band I'd want to see live based on this release. The song "Priorities" is most impressive. Good for a first effort. –*Tomás* (Nemesis)

OUTCRY – [7"]
This release comes almost three years after the band's demise. Melodic hardcore (that's what the release sheet says) that harkens back to early '80s surf/punk bands. Bands like THE CROWD and SIMPLETONES quickly come to mind, in terms of vocals. Musically, this isn't surf sounding, but its not angry enough for today's hostile kids. Really great for folks who are still into SHATTERED FAITH. 1000 pressed. –*Ted* (Red Decibel)

PITCHFORK – EUCALYPTUS [LP]
Finally something really original. I don't know quite how to describe these guys. It's somewhere between punk and dark alternative rock with the coolest guitar textures. Its a little DC emo-core influenced loaded with great guitar chords like LIVE SKULL pulls off every now and then. I hear the CD also includes their previous 7" EP. Too bad they broke up as they were probably the best thing San Diego will ever have to offer. –*Evan* (Nemesis)

THE PURPLE HANDS OF KAREEM-ABDUL JABBAR – GONE DEAD BLIND [C]
A very hypnotic, very dark blues by keyboard/sax/vocalist Jim Call and CRASH WORSHIP guitarist, Jeff Mattson. Dark, twiny guitar lines string around a slow thud, while a lonely saxophone mourns in the distance. Mattson stretches out here more than he does in CRASH WORSHIP, at times sounding like he's hammering his guitar while turning the tuning pegs, giving a combination percussive/melodic sound. Call's organ and synth provide a somber setting for several long pieces and a few shorter ones. Each piece is a different space, like MILES DAVIS' music during the 70s. Sort of a post-industrial blues. –*Wild Don* (PO Box 16926, San Diego, CA 92176)

RHYTHM COLLISION – [7"]
I don't know if this is the best name for a band considering that everyone and their mother have a problem spelling rhythm (o.k., so maybe it *is* just the people who write for BEN IS DEAD). Anyway, this is catchy pop-punk in the late '70s style. I'm a bit more fond of their first release, though that was a five song 7" so I had more to choose from. –*Darby* (Dr. Strange Records)

SACRED MIRACLE CAVE – LIQUID IN ME [EP]
I wanted the whole thing to sound like the droning, psychedelic, and sexy "Liquid in Me" song, but the B side falls into a kind of retro '70s zone that left me cold. The female vocalist has a good voice... buy it for the A side. –*Ivy* (UBIK Records, Unit 4, 26 Sternhall Ln, Peckham, London SE 15 4NT)

SCHLEPROCK – DO IT ALL [7"]
Fast, melodic punk in typical So Cal style with sing along choruses. Two songs with "Do It All" being faster and better. –*Evan* (Nemesis Records)

SCHERZO – LIFE TO YOU [7"]
Very EMO punk here that works real well. Leave it to Lookout to come up with another gem. Some songs have political undertones while others are just intelligent slices of life put to melodic non-guitar wank hardcore. Good packaging with your basic fold-out sleeve with good photos and lyrics. If your a fan of the DC KINGFACE/SOULSIDE thing, pick this one up. –*Tomás* (Lookout, P.O. Box 11374 Berkeley, CA. 94701)

SIDESHOW – SIDESHOW [LP]
Sincere, pulsating alternative "Sub-Pop" rock, three piece outfit from Lincoln, NE. Reminds me of STEEL POLE BATHTUB. Good drummer. Check it out. –*Ethan & Annabelle* (Caulfield Records, 5701 Randolph, Lincoln, NE 68510)

SILVERFISH – FAT AXEL LP
SILVERFISH make it to the US on Touch and Go records via Wiiiji, the fine folks who gave us TERMINAL CHEESECAKE. If you can handle Courtney Love's (HOLE) vocals than the female singer from SF should be bareable also. After a few listens this LP's fine production (especially drums) is evident even if the "hard rock" genre songs do grate a little. The guitar sounds a bit like some LUBRICATED GOAT licks but less twisted. "Pink and Lovely" and "White Lines" are the standout tunes on this their first domestic release. –*Tomás* (Touch & Go) *(Is the title really named after the singer because people call the singer a fat Axel Rose? –Drb).*

SOUND OF MY OWN VOICE – WHERE'S TOMMY / VALERIE DEAR [7"]
I remember the first time I heard this band three years ago at a party in New York. Their sound was original but raw, and I didn't think they'd survive more than a year. I was wrong about their durability but not their talent. This single is fantastic. Musically, it reminded me of early acoustic (read: NOT TECHNOPOP) NEW ORDER and maybe REM. Vocals are shared by the singer and the guitarist and what results is some great harmonizing. "Valerie Dear" is the slowest of the two and my favorite. The lyrics might be a little cheesy, but the song, nonetheless, is good. Impressive bass work, too. "Where's Tommy" is more up beat, but the vocals started to get a little bit whiny. Still good though, just space the listening. –*Kerin* (Noiseville Records)

SPINOUT – SPINOUT [C]
A onetime BEN IS DEAD band of the month, SPINOUT is now available on Delicious Vinyl. The cassette I got has all the classics from their EP, including "Hotrod to Hell", and "Lawbreaker", plus a whole bunch of new ones. SPINOUT continues to address themselves to their own situation, that of a boy-band on the punk side of Hollywood, but with an intellectually flippant quality that separates them from, say, MOTORCYCLE BOY and puts them more in tune with bands like VOX POP, or Dez-era BLACK FLAG. Spinout's concerns are with the bankruptcy of our thought categories, and even our language: what, after all, is a "girlfriend", or an "outlaw" in this day and age? Why do we cling to our learned ideas and accepted realities? I like theirs better. –*Mikki* (Delicious Vinyl)

SILVERFISH

SPITPOPE – SING A SONG OF SATAN [7"]
This is crazy, acidic thrash rock with a dissonance that makes sense only in their peculiar world. "Wasting Away" (side two) starts out with Melanoma's otherworldly-but-definitely-not-ethereal voice set to the scratchiest, jangliest fucking guitar you've ever heard. "I feel like I'm dying and it makes me want to kill," belts out Hjerve in the same song. Not for the mellow – imagine DOWNY MILDEW on a heavy dose of speed, HATE, and the CRAMPS. It to took me three tries to figure out what speed to listen to it at, and I still don't know if it's right. Heavy. –*Mikki* (Go Ahead Records, PO Box 424, Haslett, MI 48840)

STEEL POLE BATHTUB – TULIP [LP]
Are you a misfit, a dropout, or just a lonely fucker who's turned on by the idea of buying a gun, stealing a hot-rod, and living a life of crime in the underbelly of society? Well, if so, you'd feel right at home inside this LP. Sounds a little like SONIC YOUTH (sorry guys). It has lots of short "bits" between songs. The record is a really bumpy ride, but great and well put together. These boys aren't over the hill yet. –*Damion* (Boner Records PO box 2081, Berkeley CA 94702-0081)

THE STEPPES – HARPS AND HAMMERS, L.P.
The 90's are here, but you would never know it by listening to this record. This is THE STEPPES' 5th and they are still wandering around in the fog of the late '60s with the likes of IRON BUTTERFLY. Most of the record is very psychedelic and dreamy; they bring to mind mid-period PINK FLOYD. A British/Celtic folk influence is obvious and the result sounds a lot like JETHRO

TULL. A few times the 60's retro-ness gets out of hand as is the case with "Safe and Sound" with its la la la chorus. Quite interesting and surprising.–*Evan* (Voxx, P.O. Box 7112, Burbank, CA 91515)

STRETCH HEADS – 23 SKINNER [12"]
I've been waiting a long time to hear something new from these guys and this was a surprise. They've been described as "RUDIMENTARY PENI on angel dust" which is a very good description, but this record is different. Side A is a pseudo club/dance track which turns into a great loop of the theme from "Rhoda." They admit it's a joke. Side B "Housewife Up Your Fucking Arse Music" is a pounding masterpiece of sonic battery that rivals MISSING FOUNDATION or SWANS in the heaviness category. If you like either if those bands, you'll drool all over this one. They have a few previous releases which are hard to come by except maybe in Scotland. They also have some great material on the "Pathological" compilation and the "If 6 was 9" tribute to JIMI HENDRIX comp. Check 'em out. –*Damion* (Blast First Records)

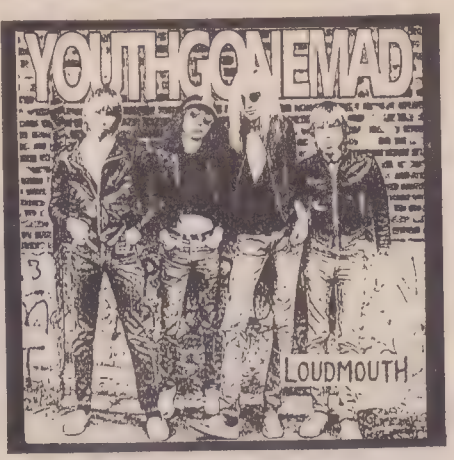
THREE LEGGED DOG – LOADED [LP]
The songs on this record are recorded in 1987, '88, and '89 and I like the earlier ones best. Some like, "Throwout Man" are fast paced, bordering on PRONG/NEUROSIS. The later stuff kind of graduates to a "MUDHOHEY" vocal sound that gets a little worn out. –*Ivy* (Bomp Records, P.O. Box 7112, Burbank, CA 91510)

THE TROUBLE WITH LARRY – ANEMONE [7" EP]
Post punk droning jazz, art, rock for demented coffee shops with monotone vocals and a drum machine. 4 good songs. -*Evan* ($3.00 from Good Kitty Records, 201A N. Davis Ave. Richmond, VA 23220)

TRUNK – LA-UGH [LP]
I mis-read the title when I took this record. I thought it was "Launch". Then I figured it was "Laugh", then I looked on the spine and saw the hyphen. Okay, so they hate L.A. What an original opinion. But what do you think about nuclear missiles in the Gulf?

It's college radio stuff, all right, but not monotonous. Good playing, sometimes going wild, and quite a bit of composition and dynamics, which has to mean a cross between BEEFHEART and that band I forget. Then they fall back on that grunge guitar sound, particularly on side two. "Firetruck Surgery" and "Sunbake" stand out, and "Uncle Love" and "Moss" could be really fun at a club like Raji's. –*Rush* (Warner Sister Records, 404 Waller, San Francisco, CA 94117)

X
VENUS BEADS – TRANSFIXED [C]
On the first cut, I had to check the batteries of my Walkman: is the song really this slow? Very HÜSKER-DÜ influenced, with a little JOY DIVISION depression, and some glory-holing prong-rock operatic extravaganzas. It's very well-played and produced, though it sounds a little empty. But the last tune is the killer. Its message keeps going through my head: "Question all that you've been told." Amen, brothers, amen. –*Wild Don* (Emergo)



I
VIOLENT PLAYGROUND – THRASHIN' BLUES [C]
This one's pretty lame. Typical speedmetal, RONNIE DIO screech and howls, double kick drums, dual Marshall attack, crude below-the-waist lyrics. The album works so furiously that I get tired just listening to it. I really feel for these guys because they try so hard and probably have to work at shitty jobs to do their thing, but there have to be turds to make the gems shine that much brighter. And guess what this is. –*Wild Don* (Big Chief)

ZOOGZ RIFT & MARC MYLAR – NUTRITIONALLY SOUND [CD]
Very twisted programing mixed with some live guitar, percussion, organ and sax tracks. A bizarre arrangement of dubs vocally and musically. ZAPPA and BEEFHEART fans will enjoy this strange mix with non-stop quirky changes and unstable mood swings. My favorite of this issue's batch of musical offerings. –*Marcel* (Trigon Records, 6837 Hanna Ave. Canoga Park, CA 91303)

COMPILATIONS/SPLITS

M
THE BIG ONE [LP]
Upon first listen I really didn't like this compilation. San Francisco vs. LA doesn't seem like the best of concepts to me in the first place and if this is intended as some sort of competition I think both sides lost. Not to be too down on this thing, picking it apart you *can* find yourself some decent sounds. Here's the breakdown: SF SIDE: Steel Pole Melvins Task Force +1 • Sharkbait +5 • Helious Creed (there's a big conflict with this one) +10 & -5 • Victims Family -10 • Cringer +4 • Monsula +5 • Mr. T. Experience +4 • Green Day -3. THE LA SIDE: Big Drill Car +1 • Popdefect +6 • Down By Law -1 • Clawhammer +7 • Offspring +2 • Hunger Farm +3 • Distorted Pony +6.5 • Blackbird -10... SF = 11. LA = 14.5. *YEAH WE WON!!!* (Also: There's a printed section which mentions all the bands Joy wanted but didn't appear on the record. For some reason she didn't mention SANDY DUNCAN'S EYE who were to appear but dropped out of the "competition" at the last minute because they weren't given the creative freedom to put a continuous loop on the end of their song that would have been in the middle of the first side. Oh, and the POPDEFECT song is about Bob from S.D.'s Eye who supposedly said *NO* to playing a show with Popdefect a while back because he said they weren't cool enough). –*Darby & Evan* (Flipside Records)

BRICKBAT/RED BLISS – SPLIT 7"
BRICKBAT is from North Carolina and proves that all good noise does not emanate from NYC. Full-on distortion and melody tunes (two of them) which brings to mind everything from CHAPTERHOUSE to older RED LORRY YELLOW LORRY. Their BEE GEES cover is such a twisted concept words cannot describe it. This band says "viva low-end guitar grunge!" And it works. The RED BLISS side is a great compliment to the first. RED BLISS are from Boston and go against any sort of prescribed Beantown college rock mold and turn in two chunky, heavy-damaged-guitar tunes which would make them worthy of playing with UNSANE or HELMET. The mastering on this plum-colored vinyl deal was not the best so pump those volume levels into the red for best results. This was quite a surprising double wallop. Two thumbs up. –*Tomás* (Axis Records 2341 Chestnut #103 San Francisco, CA 94123)

FROM TWISTED MINDS COME... [LP]
From about 1982 to 1987, I didn't listen to much music, for reasons you probably don't care to know. The point is, that when I started up again, all I bought for about a year was COMPILATIONS. I love compilations! And I really, really, love this one. You see, a good compilation isn't necessarily one with all of your favorite bands on it (in which case I'd probably go for "WHAT? STUFF" or "TANTRUM"), but one which has a mix of bands you like, but don't know well enough to risk your precious $ on, and bands you haven't heard before. Yeah, this album did it for me. BULLETS FOR PUSSY and the POCKET FISHERMAN produce probably the two strongest cuts, each exploring a different aspect of modern McCarthyism and bourgeois American politics. Other bands here include BENCH, BOOTBEAST, and UNHOLY SWILL, who prove why "White Trash Shouldn't Rap" with their cover of an ICE-T song. The weirdest thing, though, is COZ THE SHROOM's piece (it's hardly a song), which may pave the way for a wave of neo-TATER TOTZ bands. Yeah, yeah, I know, the road to hell is... Enough talk, historical references, and name dropping. Check this out. If I weren't so poor I'd buy it for you. –*Mikki* (Noiseville Records, PO Box 124, Yonkers, NY 10710)

HOUSE ARREST COMPILATION [7"]
A compilation featuring five Puerto Rican hardcore bands. The recordings are all pretty muddy or fuzzed out but I seem to remember similar things from early American bands and it didn't matter too much then (*Evan, Puerto Ricans ARE Americans! – Mikki).* The songs range from basic punk to thrash/metal. –*Evan* (Computer Crime Records, 74 Osborne Ave., Norwalk CT 06855; make checks payable to Jeff Coleman)

YOUTH GONE MAD/URGENT FURY – [Split 7"]
YOUTH GONE MAD do a very straight-ahead cover of "Loudmouth" and even go so far as to duplicate the primitive stereo mix of the original. URGENT FURY deliver a good old-style punk rock song along the lines of early D.O.A., maybe. Great cover art by both bands and neato stickers. –*Evan* (Piggy Bank, 560 West 43rd, #306., NYC NY 10036)

STRETCH HEADS

A buena hambre no hay mal pan. –Gabriel García Márquez [1928]

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

INDEPENDENT PROJECT RECORDS ARCHIVE SERIES

An approximately bi-monthly "Vinyl is Not Dead" series of unreleased sonic jewels from the IPR pantheon, designed by two-time Grammy nominated graphic designer (once for CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN and once for FOR AGAINST), Bruce Licher at Independent Project Press. The one thing musically that all the records released to date have in common is that each group has a unique and well defined personality. Each project contains true innovation, intelligence, and intensity!

Naturally, the ever famous IPR cover art parallels the strength and vision of these bands. Each individually numbered 10" record cover, labels, and inserts are individually hand fed on the Independent Project Press Vandercook Letterpress. The combination of colored chip board stocks engraved with layers of lustrous gold, copper, bronze, and silver metallic inks, and stark, bold browns, yellows, greens, blues, and blacks create an ominous and powerful image. If nothing else you should own these to frame on your wall. The ever inventive Licher has also concocted a very unique fold over envelope type design for these 10" jackets (like the FOR AGAINST ECHELONS letterpress edition design—the one with the stalk of wheat included). Although the price for these little darlings is a bit dear, when you take into account the amount of time that goes into feeding each jacket through the letter press once for each of the five to eight colors, these are a real bargain, and like most of the other IPR limited edition releases will probably make their way onto Bleacker Barfs $100.00 a pop wall of fame in no time. (By the way, I know I don't have to say this, but if any of you loyal readers are fool enough to shop at Bleacker Barfs when Arons, Green Hell, Rhino, Vinyl Fetish and a whole score of other stores are just around the corner, you will burn in Disco Hell forever and spend a lot more money). Except for a few of the older IPR releases, I can't think of any other record designs that compare to the beauty and originality these things possess (aside from ZOVIET FRANCE). The images are other worldly—displaced from both contemporary time and culture. Additionally, the releases to date also possess exceptional musical merit. I know that this is the cheap issue, but one thing a good cheapskate knows is to pay a little more now so you don't end up paying a LOT more later! (Remember what happened with that first KOMMUNITY FK, CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN, SR, etc. records?) Other upcoming releases include FOUR WAY CROSS, SAVAGE REPUBLIC, and SHIVA BURLESQUE. Subscriptions available (the least expensive way to buy them). (Independent Project Records, 544 Mateo St., LA, CA 90013) *BY ETHAN PORT*

AUTUMNFAIR - GLACIERS AND GODS [10"]

To quote the record: "In 1987 Thom Fuhrmann of SAVAGE REPUBLIC began work on a project entitled AUTUMNFAIR, recording two songs which appeared on the October Country compilation LP on Nate Starkman & Son. He later teamed up with Val Haller (who at one time played with LORDS OF THE NEW CHURCH, WAYNE (JAYNE) COUNTY AND THE ELECTRIC CHAIRS, and the FLYING LIZARDS) to record a further body of work in 1988, from which the six songs on this LP are taken." Towering, sculpted wails from the heart. Distorted love ballads for the 4AD apocalypse. "Arterial", a song written about a real life experience in which Val came across a dying man on the highway and held him in his hands as he lay dying, is the most chilling song on the record. "Cascade" is a double bass instrumental number with a heroic JOY DIVISION feel. This album will go down as a classic. The vocals are strong and musical. Biff Sanders from FOUR WAY CROSS/ETHYL MEATPLOW/MOTIV STUDIOS, Brad Laner from (among MANY other projects) the last few SAVAGE REPUBLIC albums, and Jeremy Geoff from MOTOR MOUTH all have drum credits (over the drum machine tracks). All the songs were recorded in one take with no guitar or bass overdubs. This is an amazing bit of information when you listen to how layered and textured the music is (particularly on "So Far From God" and "Novy Mir", whose frenzied guitar buzzes and bombs like a squadron of B-52's). WIRE's 154 with a dance beat! There's a rumor about a lot of new material already recorded for a full length CD. The songs really grow on you and lodge in the back of your brain. (IP 033 Edition of 2000 copies).

ABECEDARIANS - OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE (Double 10" LP)

A Double 10" set of the earliest recordings of this IPR/FACTORY RECORDS/CAROLINE RECORDS dancedarian outfit during their Orange County days. The ABECEDARIANS have the distinction of being the first American band signed to Factory Records. The tracks were recorded between 1983 and 1985, when 'experimental' was not a bad word, and most of the cuts were remixed by Biff Sanders at Motiv Studios in Los Angeles in Nov. 1990. Middle Eastern whirling dervish tunes with a very danceable beat. The band disbanded in 1987, but they definitely left their mark on the 80's underground music scene. The album cover looks like a 1913 postage stamp from Algiers. If not for the English writing and dates, it would be impossible to tell in what decade in the last century this album was made. One of IPR's greatest graphic images yet! (IP 031/32 Edition of 1750 copies.)

FOR AGAINST - IN THE MARSHES [10"]

Four track cassette recordings of this now deceased three piece from Lincoln, NE dated Spring, 1986 (just after the release of their first LP ECHELONS). Beautiful and stunning! Representing some of the most experimental and extreme material FOR AGAINST ever recorded, as well as some of their best pop songs. "Amnesia" floors me, and is as powerful as the most popular post-punk heavy weights. Limited edition of 2500 copies complete with exquisite hand letterpressed GREEN chipboard cover and labels. If you've ever driven through the midwest, past the miles and miles and miles and miles of corn fields, you'll appreciate the haunting and soothing message FOR AGAINST presents. Refer to the album cover for the image of sunlight and shadow flickering through towering trees. A monolith of nature. FOR AGAINST are one of the most neglected hidden talents of the 80's. The music is cerebral but definitely NOT boring. The textured, pulsating, layered sound makes your mind wander, evoking immense inner passion and emotion, pulling you from reality into an inner world of intense vision. You will fall in love with this record. FOR AGAINST are great for an all night Love Session... just put the turntable on infinite repeat. You MUST own this record!!! (IP 029) *–Ethan & Annabelle*

DECEPTION BAY - MY COLOR FLAG 12" LP • FORTUNE DAYS 10" EP

The 12" LP is printed with black ink pressed deeply into this amazing shiny silver paper imported from Boston, from where this band hails. On this latest release Jay Dunn has taken things in a much more coherent and structured direction. The bass/drum "driving down the deserted highway" atmosphere is still there from the first L.P., but with more dynamics and precision. Jay Dunn's "GLEN BRANCHA-esque" guitar riffs are glorious! The perfect music for a Black and White film—which is exactly how the band performs. Such an integration of sound and vision is rarely pulled off effectively. Let's hope for a video release in the near future. I've also heard a rumor that the band will be playing live in L.A. sometime soon! Mr. Dunn's thoughful, introspective vocals are slightly evokative of Ian Curtis. In fact I'd even go the nine yards and make the full JOY DIVISION influence/comparison.

The 10" is printed onto basically tissue paper with a huge white sticker holding the folded envelope together. It's up to you to decide whether to rip it open, slice it with a razor blade, or leave the music and graphics forever trapped inside its veiled cage. The music is much rawer and direct... comprising some of the first DECEPTION BAY recordings. Darby thinks they sound like the Cassandra Complex. Yet another band with a unique and hard to describe sound. What can I say... another MUST HAVE

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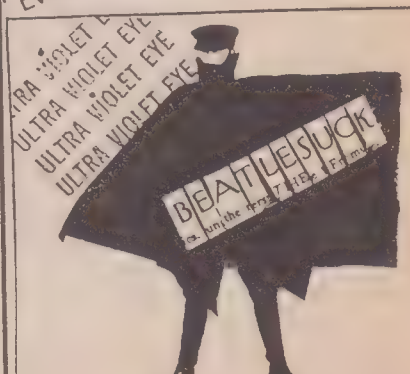

842 Folsom St #101, San Francisco, CA 94107

"Ya know, if I was a teenager today, I'd never get into rock & roll. Today it's for the squares." -*Iggy Pop*

I.P. FREELY'S ANTI-DEMO COLUMN

HOMEBOYS OF THE APOCALYPSE / True Sounds Of The Apocalypse

From out of Santa Barbara ride the Homeboys Of The Apocalypse, just dripping with social consciousness and moral indignation. A lot of that chunky, slow punker kind of thing, heavy on the wah-wah pedal. The MC5 are born again on this tape, playing sloppier and cruder than ever. Now all they need to hit the big time is some amphetamine-crazed manager with political aspirations to introduce the band at the Coconut Teaszer; wearing a Peralta Skateboards T-shirt and a fucked-up Uncle Sam tophat, yelling, "Heeeyyyy brothers and sisters, FREEE THE PEOPLE, man! Free the FUCKIN' PEOPLE!!! And BUY THIS 4-SONG CASSETTE EP FOR $3.00!!" If you drop three on this one, you can thrill to their hippie/gothic hand-lettered J-card insert (containing lots of informative info), the one that I had to stuff it back in its box while writing this because it kept making me think of the Renaissance Fair.

SUKA FISH / Demo

"Hello, I'm sending this tape in to be reviewed." *(hmmm, great intro-sound bite from some movie, sounds like Joan Baez or someone, saying prissily "I'm going to light his candle...for all those wise and good men whose lives were senselessly snuffed out" etc. and then this mosh pit metal band kicks in)* "S.F. are a 5 piece band out of Anaheim." *(it figures, sounds like O.C. punk influenced metal, with some Corrosion of Conformity style left-wing peace lyrics to to throw you off the scent)* "We sell this demo for a dollar and a blank tape or a blank tape and stamps." *(maybe if they stop calling it a demo they won't have to beg for postage)* "Thanx forever PEACE, Renie". *(sure, hippie—see ya in the pit).*

PMS / Blood Sisters

This group was featured a couple of issues ago when I heralded them as the greatest group since Frightwig on the strength of their "Bloody Marys" tape. Well, they've upped the ante since then by dubbing "Bloody Marys" onto a new cassette that contains their new release called "Blood Sisters". And you can buy this new 'SuperSaver' reissue for only $5.00. The new material is more driving but less demented than "Bloody Marys". True to PMS form, the tape I got came in a little white bag with a blue cross and nurse printed on it and the words, " ...for sanitary napkin disposal *only*". A little lyric sheet comes with the tape, and if you're very lucky as I was they will include some crude drawings of naked women holding used tampons and such. They pick up the loving cup once again in this month's rating chart, clinching the top spot with 10 bonus points by thoughtfully putting duct tape over the erase-protect slots on their cassette; even though I'm not going to tape over *this* one.

NUCLEAR ROACH / We Could Care

Working our way up the coast, we now have a submission from Carmel. For you non-Californians (I keep forgetting that BID has gone national), Carmel, California is the asshole of the universe masquerading as a tourist trap for the ultra-wealthy. And these 3 lads have climbed out of their mom's BMWs long enough to go into a studio and grace us with this 6-song tape of furrowed-brow, deep thinking thrash metal for high-school freshman intellectuals. Lyrically, they are in the Metallica/Megadeth vein of "Well, like, we sing about toxic death and war and shit 'cause, you know, I mean, those things are, well, kinda FUCKED, you know what I mean? And all the bands we listen to are into that shit, so we figured, well, it must be cool. We're, like, trying to be individuals. Just like the bands we listen to." If they re-make Spinal Tap in 10 years it will be called "Nuclear Roach". I'm sorry, I know it hurts to look at that name twice. No price listed, but I'll just bet that if you send these guys a used condom or something along with your address they will send you a package in return just like the one I got with a tape and flyers and stickers and things.

SOUND BITE HOUSE / Sound Bite House

These guys have a future. Whenever someone starts a "Classic Punk Rock" FM radio station for the aging pogo set these guys will be in heavy

I.P.'S REVIEW-O-MATIC

	Homeboys O.T.A.	Suka Fish	P.M.S.	Nuclear Roach	Sound Bite House	Mashed Potato	Mutant Press	Huge	I.M.F.	Paste/Semtrifidsh	Gangway	Plaid Cattle	The Fumes	Medical Genocide
ART/LABEL	0	0	5	3	0	4	9	2	4	4	3	9	1	2
ART/J-CARD	6	0	5	9	5	6	5	7	6	6	0	6	3	7
ART/STICKERS,ETC.	1	0	7	5	0	0	0	0	4	9	0	0	1	0
SOUND QUALITY	3	3	4	4	5	3	7	6	2	0	7	7	2	6
LYRICS	4	0	8	4	4	7	0	0	4	5	0	0	0	0
MINUS SCORES														
DUMB NAME (-10pts)	--	10	--	10	--	10	10	10	--	--	10	10	10	10
LAME CONCEPT*	--	15	--	25	15	--	10	15	15	--	15	10	15	25
THEY SEEM TO WANT TO GET SIGNED (-20pts)	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	20	--	--	20	--	--	20
BONUS SCORES														
ERASE TABSINTACT? (10pts)	--	10	10	--	10	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	10	--
NEVER ONCE REMINDED ME OF AEROSMITH (20pts)	20	20	20	--	20	20	--	--	--	20	20	20	--	20	--
TOTALS	34	8	59	-10	29	30	-19	-30	25	54	-15	2	12	-40

***LAME CONCEPT SCORING:**
-10: TOO INTELLECTUAL TO HAVE A CONCEPT. *Leave art school at once. Do not pass GO do not collect $200*
-15: DATED CONCEPT. *Spare me--send it to ROLLING STONE or their bastard spawn at MAXIMUM ROCK & ROLL*
-25: SUCCESS CONCEPT. *Hey you're the next WARRANT! Allow I.P. to give you a toilet shampoo, tuckleaze!*

SCORING:

100 and up ..... MATHEMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE—IT MUST BE SOMEONE I'M SLEEPING WITH
80-100 ..... THE MESSIAH HAS RETURNED
40-79 ..... DESERVES A HUNK OF THAT MICHAEL JACKSON BILLION
20-39 ..... MAYBE THEY'RE GOOD OR MAYBE THEY JUST PUNCHED OUT THE ERASE TABS
0-19 ..... NOT MUCH GOING ON HERE—SAVE YOUR MONEY
-20- -1 ..... SHOULD PUT AN AD IN THE RECYCLER AND SELL ALL THEIR EQUIPMENT
-55- -21 ..... SHOULD GIVE THEIR EQUIPMENT AWAY AND THEN LIGHT THEMSELVES ON FIRE
-55 and under ..... MATHEMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE—IT MUST BE A PERSONAL VENDETTA OF MINE

rotation. This NYC band is to the Damned what Harry Connick is to Sinatra. But it's good all the same. Sure it's dated, but there's much more spirit here than you'll find in most of the speed-metal regurgitations produced by morons like Death Angel and their ilk. And guess what-this tape is available TOTALLY FREE for the price of a phone call to (516)-366-0306. The info included with this one screamed "FUCK THE RADIO STATIONS! FUCK THE RECORD COMPANIES! FUCK THE DISTRIBUTORS!" And then they fuck themselves, too, by subsidizing the world's tape collections while they're on unemployment. Pretty goddamn stupid and desperate of them if you ask me. It must take them *some* dough to make them-the packaging is sharp. Call and get one before they run out of money and have their phone turned off, but don't hold your breath.

MASHED POTATO BOUTIQUE / Songs That Bit The Big One

These four people make up everything as they go along. Yes even the words. The tape is crammed full of songs, 20 if I have deciphered their messy but cool J-card correctly. Sounds like a bunch of guys with their gear set up in a Public Storage facility amusing themselves while all fucked up on mushrooms. Mostly a lot of garage-band silliness with very brief flashes of hilarity, like a line in a song called "Bed" about 'Mr. French in the bathtub with Buffy'; and there's another song where the singer does a really good impression of Psychedelic Furs' singer Richard Butler while warbling '*You* really *smell* but I *think* I *like* it'. These guys have 4 other tapes out according to their 'catalog' (a sheet of paper from a dot-matrix computer printer that looks like a credit card termination notice), all with different themes. The catalog says that they are all "free, with the exception of a $2.00 postage & handling fee". Translation: Their tapes cost $2.00 each. Fucking acidhead liars.

MUTANT PRESS / Safe Sex Sucks

Well recorded, polished, tight commercial dogshit. One good thing about it is that the guy plays all the instruments himself—but then he uses the extra info space to credit his tattoo artist! Whoa, move over Axl Rose, you got some serious competition for the Hollywood Sleaze King crown! Another good point is that nowhere on this tape can you find an address for where to send money to get this thing.

HUGE / Huge Two

Hey, looks like we've finally got our whipping boy for this months column! The press kit enclosed wallows in an orgy of namedropping and drools over the favorable reviews that rained down on the group like thunderbolts from Mount Olympus; then it falls all over itself to get to the third paragraph, which trumpets the arrival of an artist whose claim to rock immortality is that he *won the BAM magazine demo derby!!!* And they're sending it to *I.P. Freely??* Talk about sticking your head in the lion's mouth! And what's the music like? Well, it's that Jackson Browne/Eagles kind of music that 1981 era L.A. punks facing mid-life crisis (John Doe, etc.) find so stimulating. As I continue to read the lines of the press release, so rich in unintentional humor, I spot the words "Pop-rock on the edge". I think that's pretty accurate. Right on the edge of my trash compactor.

IMF / Strength, Speed & Beauty

Punk rock, sounds like it's straight out of 1983. Arty edge to some songs, like when the singer talks over creaky guitar noises inbetween the obligatory motion-blur 1-2-3-4! chant. For only $3.50 you can buy this tape and relive those golden memories of throwing up in front of the Cathay De Grande after your blue-haired girlfriend ditched you to go off to the Tropicana to party with the Exploited and ended up fucking Wattie and the guitar roadie in the bathroom, and after the band left town she had a new tattoo but you both had a tearful reconciliation *en route* to the free clinic anyway.

PASTE / Drugstore
SENTRIDOH / Losers

It's exciting to open a package that completely baffles me. I had to search high and low through the 'catalog' (a hunk of white paper with a handwritten and nearly unintelligible scribble of info) and the cool homemade comic book that came with these two tapes to even find out what they were called. Sebadoh's "Losers" tape is mostly made up of a string of 2 minute druggy Donovan-ish songs with acoustic guitar backing. Some flatulent sounding percussion shows up now and then, and not all of the songs have words. "Paste" contains even more folky soul-searching than "Losers", almost like what Daniel Johnston will be like if he ever grows up (although not as melodic). They sell for $4.00 each; but if you bite, beware—The sound quality is pretty lousy. The "Losers" tape is particularly abysmal—not just kind of muddy or hissy, but grossly distorted in parts, like your stereo is on fire or something. "Paste" is a bit better in that department. These tapes are completely self-indulgent, original, maddening, interesting in spots, and show some promise; Shrimper Tapes might develop into something if they stop hitting themselves in the face with their own underachieving attitude and get a new tape deck.

GANGWAY / The Antennaman Chronicles

Coming soon to a Coors Silver Bullet commercial near you. Oh, man—wasn't one Del Fuegos enough in this lifetime?

PLAID CATTLE / Milk It

I think there's a sense of humor in there somewhere, but I could just be imagining things. The opening cut is called "Jack Bruce", and the singer really sounds just like Jack Bruce. I thought I was in for some tongue-in-cheek yuks but I couldn't understand any of the words so who knows. Maybe it's really him singing. Plaid Cattle sounds like a power trio that heard a Minutemen album once and got really frightened. Very tight, professional and pretty dull. I kept fast-forwarding bit by bit trying to find interesting moments that I thought would loom up on the horizon, but those moments never came. Bland but not stupid.

FUMES / Songs From The Back Room

Definitely gets the Golden Turkey award for worst lyrics of the month. The music is sterile punk rock of the kind Enigma Records used to try and peddle a few years back on their weak compilation discs ('The Enigma Variations"). The tape sells for $2.00 and comes with a lime green bumper sticker that says "The Fumes", which you can put on your car if you'd like to get pulled over 3 times a day by cops wanting to see a smog certificate.

MANIACAL GENOCIDE / Apocalyptic Symmetry

This brutal 4 song tape of high-voltage speed metal insanity really gets the adrenaline pumping. You can totally get out your aggressions listening to it. In fact, I got really pissed off just reading the liner notes. By the time the music kicked in, I was in a rage at having to sit and listen to another gang of white bread suburban scum playing completely derivative James Hetfield-damaged metal shit while decked out in Nikes, black Levis stone wash 501's and sleeveless T-shirts advertising all the bands they rip off just in case you're as dense as the musicians themselves and need to have reality spelled out for you in bold yellow & orange gothic lettering.

ADDRESSES:

HOMEBOYS OF THE APOCALYPSE / 6655 PARADISE RD., SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105
SUKA FISH / BOX 1253, PLACENTIA, CA 92670
PMS / PO BOX 13726, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93107
NUCLEAR ROACH / PO BOX 222393, CARMEL, CA 93922
SOUND BITE HOUSE / PO BOX 874, LINDENHURST, NY 11757-0874
MASHED POTATO BOUTIQUE / 379 HARBOR DR. CAPE CANAVERAL, FL 32920
HUGE / c/o WHOOSH RECORDS, 12130 MITCHELL AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90066
IMF / 1232 MEADOW DR., ALGONQUIN, IL 60102
PASTE & SENTRIDOH / c/o Shrimper Tapes, PO BOX 1837, UPLAND, CA 91785
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MAGAZINE REVIEWS

AMNESIA #1, 76pgs, $3.
Really great zine. Interview with Bob Flanagan and Sheree Rose about "Nailed", which was a body piercing S&M performance put on by Amok. Zine publishers interviewed (M. Gunderloy of Factsheet Five included). Cool graphics, fiction, poetry, reviews, etc. One of the better ones around. –*Marcel* (PO Box 661441, LA, CA 90066)

BREAKFAST WITHOUT MEAT #14, 24 PG +flexi S $3.00
This issue contains such various musical features as CAROLINER RAINBOW, THE 101 STRINGS ORCHESTRA and MARK EITZEL of American Music Club. Add to that some really bad-taste cartoons that remind me of Stubbo the Cat and record reviews by some loser named Gobo. Overall the band interviews standout, the record reviews are interesting because each one is described by one or two very strange words which you then look up on a chart, by putting the definitions of the words together you get a review, kind of like a puzzle. Also the story of Pact cigarettes is revealed, fascinating! The flexi has tunes by Mark Eitzel, THE EASY GOINGS and Caroliner. Pretty worth it. –*Tomás* (Breakfast Without Meat PO Box 15927, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506)

BOOK REVIEW

BRICKS AND ANCHORS
by JON LONGHI (128pp • paperback)

26 tales of sex and drug-induced madness are contained in this book by San Francisco author Jon Longhi. The pieces range in size from half a page to 38 pages in length. Fact and fiction intertwine throughout Longhi's writing, giving you the impression that he probably spent the last year or so in front of his Macintosh on a strong buzz. A few of the standouts are "Blur"; the centerpiece "Bricks and Anchors"; and the nice little coda that closes the book, "Join Together".

"Bricks and Anchors" is a haphazard collage of distorted reality, debauched behavior and recollected anecdotes from encounters with various dissolute characters. Skateboard punks get chased by horny transvestites; a Vietnam vet drills holes in a coffee table so the sheep won't move when he screws them; jocks on the crosstown high school football team traffic in the wrong illicit steroids and start developing breasts; a college student goes on a mission to sleep with every woman in the state of Delaware. What's real & what's made up; who knows, who cares? I wish I had more books like this to review. At six bills, not a bad deal.

This is Longhi's second book. His first publication, a chapbook titled "Zucchini and Other Stories", is also available from Manic D. Press, PO Box 410804, San Francisco, CA 94141. –*Butch Thompson*

THE FANZINE THAT HAD NO NAME, 24 pgs., free.
Interviews with CRINGER, PLAID RETINA, FUGAZI, and CIRCLE JERKS. Reviews, graphics, good looking photos. Well put together and rounded corners to boot. –*Marcel* (1693 Franceschi Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93103)

ISOLATION, 24pgs., $2.
Gothic, spooky, evilness, death, scary, darkness. Interviews with SHADOWPLAY, SHROUDETTES along with reviews, fiction, poetry in a gloomy doomy vein. Slap on the white face, paint black mascara and sit on Beelzebub's lap. –*Marcel* (5411 N. Grantland, Fresno, CA 93722)

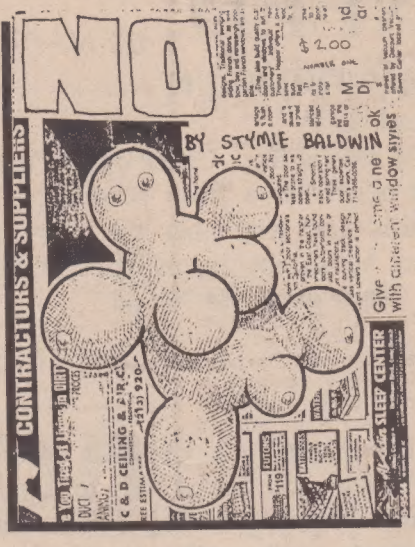
MEAT CAKE #1, 36pg S $2.00
This is an amazing underground comic book with 5 stories written and illustrated by Darcy Stanger and Brandon Kearney who have had a part in the band CAROLINER. The stories are often as warped and surreal as Caroliner but also unique in their approach to narration and subject matter. The intricacies of the different panels in the stories are complex and illustrate that a lot of work was put into this issue even incorporating found pictures and cut-ups. Stories include "Noisy Racket Man" and "Lament". Copies are limited, for a true experience of sordid underground art I would waste a minute ordering this.– *Tomás* (Nuf Sed PO Box 591075 San Francisco, CA 94159)

MOUTH MAGAZINE, 12 pgs., free.
This is a free music newspaper out of Georgia. Great look, with MARY MY HOPE, SNATCHES OF PINK, and 60 DEVILS interviews. Reviews, comic reviews as well! Couldn't find a mailing price. –*Marcel* (PO Box 2069, Decator, GA 30030)

NO #1, 28pg S $2.00
This collection of comic stories really surprised me with it's originality and literary perspectives. The characters are usually human-animal combinations involved in strange sexual circumstances. Fans of Love and Rockets and Birdland I wouldn't miss this. The drawing quality ranges from intense to cruddy with the best stuff reminding me of Rocket Boy comics from Japan. Definitely worth two bones for the support of a twisted and artistic talent like Stymie Baldwin (the author). Get it. –*Tomás* (NO c/o S. Baldwin 2124 Clarke ave. Long Beach CA 90815)

LIL' RHINO GAZETTE #17, 52pg D $2.00
This is this long-running zines's censorship issue which covers the basics on the first amendment plus has some good articles by Jim Testa (*Jersey Beat*) and others. Interviews with DASHRIPROCK and BABES IN TOYLAND which are short but good. The usual show reviews and record features including a special focus on singles. Also an article weird toys (T-shirts, buttons ,found junk) and the story about the JANE'S ADDICTION cover art. It's definitely slapped together from typewritten and computer typeset pages and type is sometimes very small. A lot of material is reviewed including major label and mainstream indie label trash, makes you wish some editing had been done in that department. There is a dedicated feel the magazine. Cool. –*Tomás* (Lil' Rhino Gazette PO Box 14139 Arlington,TX 76094-1139)

ROLLERDERBY #2, 19pgs S $3.00
A revealing publication by Lisa Suckdog. Filled with inspiring pieces like the critique of lingerie catalogs, some of "the dirty letters" she gets, a great interview with GLEN MEADMORE and



VAGINAL "CREME" DAVIS... Not only can I relate to masturbating with pillows (thanks for the water faucet tip) but also trying to get rid of a French husband you don't want anymore. It's only 19 pages but there's lots inside. Full of emotions and energy, this is one of the more entertaining magazines I've received. Go Lisa Go! –*Darby* (c/o Lisa Carver, PO Box 1491, Dover, NH, 03820)

(SUB) URBAN PROPANE! #1, 44pg-S $1
The Do-It-Yorself ethic is alive and well in the premier issue of this fanzine. Disseminating information seems to be the goal here and it's more than achieved with strong articles and interviews with Tin-Ear, Food Not Bombs, the A.L.F., the Masturbation Liberation Front and other peace-punk/anarcho shit. Layout is sloppy as hell which makes finding the usable information challenging. I respect the freedoms that this zine chooses not to take for granted. A definite call for the scene to get off its ass and organize. Recommended for it's sincerity alone.–*Tomás* (Sub URBAN Propane PO BOX 4472 Long Beach CA 90804-0472)

SUBSTITUTION FANZINE #1, D w/ 4 Song Cassette
A pretty cool local xerox deal-y by the lovable Sam and Anji with interviews and musical tracks by RED TEMPLE SPIRITS, FOUR WAY CROSS, STEREOTAXIC DEVICE, and DISTORTED PONY. There's also a pretty interesting interview with SONIC YOUTH by Michael B at their last Palladium gig, an article about why we should boycott GE products, and a little essay thing about Sexism and Gender Roles by Sam. I think it has a lot of charm. –*Ethan* (Substitution, 28332 Palos Verdes Dr. E., Palos Verdes Penn., CA 90274)

SUBURBAN VOICE #30, 68pg S $2.50 (w/7")
This zine is turning into a "magazine" it seems and one that is going from being good to great. Most noted is its journalistic integrity in reviewing material from all sources, commercial and underground. In addition to a great hard vinyl 7" with an amazing American Standard song (their best to date) interviews range from a POISON IDEA tour diary to THEE HYPNOTICS and JAWBOX. I cringed at the inclusion of metal and commercial bands being reviewed and interviewed (LIVING COLOR, 247-SPYZ) but it seems the editor's perogative to give everyone a fair shake. There's plenty of alternative stuff here although no industrial really and it seems all the major indies consider this a legit place to put adds. You could call that success. –*Tomás* (Suburban Voice/Al Quint PO BOX 1605 Lynn,MA 01903)

TECHNOLOGY WORKS #5, 16pgs.
This packed half size zine has interviews with NEUBAUTEN, 2ND COMMUNICATION (from Japan), BIOHAZARD, DIE WAZAU, plus music reviews and more. Mucho industrio! –*Marcel* (PO Box 477, Placentia, CA 92670-0477)

VIRGIN MEAT #11, 24pgs-D, $2.
Wicked fiction, poetry, and graphics. An assortment of evil entertainment. I just wish the stories were longer. –*Marcel* (2325 W. K-15, Lancaster, CA 9353)

NOTE: The letter immediately following the number of pages denotes the size of the zine. D is 5 1/2 x8 1/2", HL is 7x8 1/2" and S is 8 1/2"x11". If the magazine is free keep in mind that postage is not free – sending $1 will usually cover it.

We all live in a state of ambitious poverty. –Juvenal [47-138]

CONTACT LIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

GET HIP – (Greg) Columbus & Preble Ave, Pittsburg, PA 15233.
MORDAM – P.O. Box 988 SF, CA 94101. (415)243-8230.
RAVE RECORDS – P.O. Box 40075, Philadelphia, PA, 19106. (215) 387-1150
REVOLVER USA (Scooby Doo) – 290 C Napoleon St., SF, CA 94124. (415) 695-1637
SCAT RECORDS – 4241 E. 71st 2nd Flr, Cleveland, Ohio 44105. (261)341-4843
TOXIC SHOCK – 3008 E. Grant Rd., Tucson, AZ 85716.

(PRINTED MATTER)
**Book distributors are completely different from music distributors. They do a 55/45 split and the publisher gets the 45. You WILL get paid and they keep good records of how many books they're selling, but it will take a long time until you get your first check. Some support independent titles, some don't. And there are distributors that just specialize in indie titles who are definitely worth supporting, but it's a bad thing that they are few and far between. (with some indies the % favors the publisher). –Martin Sprouse (Pressure Drop Press)*
AK DSTRIBUTION – 3 Balmoral Pl., Stirling, Scotland FK832RD (Ramsey Kanaan)
***BOOK PEOPLE** (picky) – 2929 Fifth St. Berkeley, CA 94710.
FLATLAND – P.O. Box 2420, Fort Bragg CA 95437. (Jim Martin)
***INLAND** (East Coast) – P.O. Box 120261, East Haven, Connecticut 06512.
LAST GASP (t-shirts, books, comics/magazines) – 2180 Bryant St. SF, CA 94110.
LEFT BANK (anarchist) (take a long time – all volunteer) 4241 Brooklyn North East, Seattle Washington 98105.
SEE HEAR – 59 E. 7th St. New York, NY 10003. (212)505-9781 (Ted)
SUBTERRANEAN RECORDS – P.O. Box 2530, Berkeley, CA 94110. (415) 821-5880 (Phil)
TOWER MAGS – 2601 Del Monte, W. Sacramento, CA 95691 (916)321-2561 (Doug Biggart)
*bigger book distributors, but they do handle some indies.
For a complete list of all the printers who would not print "You don't have to Fuck people over to survive." write to Pressure Drop Press at P.O. 460754 SF, CA 94146. Write him for a complete list of book distributors as well.

TYPO'S, ERRORS AND *BRAINLESSNESS*

FROM BEN IS DEAD ISSUE #12

Page	Was	Should Be
4	issues	issue's
8	creditted*	credited
21	Sweezey	Swezey
24	trangress	transgress
26	severly **	severely
27	appoximately	approximately
30	karme	karma
39	repative	repetitive
41	definately	definitely
45	Whisky aparrent	Whiskey apparent
47	Arron's** chaeck	Aron's check

Mirakel's artwork on page 4 originally appeared in Marcel DeJure's SPLATTER.

Annabelle Port phoned the record companies to get the information about warning labels.

I.P. Freely cheated the band Comerades in Arms out of 25 points for not calling thiers a demo tape. Also, their correct address is the one listed in the classified section.

*: from the errors section itself!!
**: from an ad and NOT OUR FAULT

COMING NEXT ISSUE...

DISMISINFORMATION: **PROPAGANDA, MANIPULATION, MYTHS...** *Articles on* Satan vs. God, U.S. History, the LA Music Scene / punk rock nostalgia, magazines, product mislabeling, Health Care.., *interviews* (let's try this again) *with* SAMBA HELL, PRESSUREHED, PIGFACE, JEFFERY VALLANCE.., *and stories of* cheese and sewer rats. Ideas and contributions (per usual) are always welcome (send them on disk if you could). The deadline is June 15th – and the issue (#14) will be out on July 1st. *Special feature:* NO articles, interviews, or mentions of Shane WIlliams, Ace Backwords, TOPY or GG Allin (who's recently been paroled)! No other magazine can promise you that!

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BEN IS DEAD IS LOOKING FOR SOME SICK PERSON or interns who get off on transcribing interviews. This is essential – anyone with quick typing fingers or just lots of spare time really should call us now. (213) 960-7674. (We don't bite...hard). Also wanted: Ad sales person.

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